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Daily Report

East Asia

FBIS-EAS-93-083
Monday
3 May 1993

Daily Report
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ADB To Discuss Admitting Former Soviet Republics

OW0105070293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0651 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] Tokyo, May 1 KYODO—The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will discuss admitting six former Soviet republics in central Asia as new members at its three-day meeting scheduled to start in Manila Tuesday [4 May], Japanese Finance Ministry officials said Saturday.

The Manila-based bank's 26th annual meeting, which will be attended by its 52 member nations and the six nations as observers, will also discuss an increase in the ADB's capital, the officials said.

The six nations are Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan.

Kimimasa Tarumizu, president of the Manila-based institution, has said the bank will admit the nations as members by the end of this year.

Japan's Finance Minister Yoshiro Hayashi, who will attend the meeting, is expected to support the nations' memberships in his statement, the ministry officials said.

Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan, which have the least trouble fulfilling conditions for membership, are very likely to be admitted during the meeting, they said.

Hayashi will also express his views on the Japanese role in increasing the bank's capital, they said.

The bank has been considering a boost of its capital to 30 billion U.S. dollars from the current 23.1 billion dollars. The ADB president has reportedly said it is necessary to come up with a specific proposal on the capital increase at the coming meeting.

The ADB boosted its capital by 7.5 billion dollars between 1983 and 1987, but it has suffered a fund shortage because of recent expansion of its loan programs.

G-24 Urges Halt to Yen Rise, Less Focus on Russian Aid

OW0105120593 Tokyo KYODO in English 1137 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] Washington, May 1 KYODO—Developing countries urged a halt to the yen's rise and expressed dissatisfaction with what they say is "too much focus" on aid to Russia, Japanese Government officials said Friday [30 April].

At a meeting of the Group of 24 (G-24), delegates from the developing countries gave "unexpected" support to Japan in calling for a stem to the yen's rise.

The 24 countries came together as part of biannual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

The delegates expressed concern that the yen's ascent will have an adverse effect on their national economies, according to the officials.

A ranking Syrian official reportedly told the group that developing countries would find it hard to repay loans to the industrialized world if the dollar continues to fall.

He said a weaker dollar deflates their dollar-based export revenues which are used to repay the loans. He added that industrialized nations should take full account of such a situation.

On aid to Russia, one delegate was quoted as saying that in addition to Russia, industrial countries should supply more money to the developing world.

In April, the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialized nations agreed on a 43.4 billion dollar aid package for Russia at a meeting of foreign and finance ministers in Tokyo.

The package called for creating a new facility within the IMF to promote Russia's transition to a market economy as well as other centrally planned economies.

The industrialized world, in particular the United States, remains reluctant to boost the IMF's financial resources, or quotas, in special drawing rights. But the group of developing nations says such a move would provide more funds for their economies.

The developing countries also said the G-7 nations were unenthusiastic about creating a new program after the expiration in November of the enhanced structural adjustment facility for low-income member countries.

Apparently taking into account such discontent among developing countries, the policy-making interim committee of the IMF adopted a communique Friday calling for the creation of a successor program for low-income member states by the end of November.

Japan

Tokyo Expresses 'Extreme Regret' Over U.S. Trade Charges

OW3004231693 Tokyo KYODO in English 2222 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, May 1 KYODO—The Japanese Government expressed "extreme regret" Saturday [1 May] over the United States accusing it of discriminating against U.S. companies in public works construction and threatening sanctions within two months.

Japan "cannot accept...that the United States should claim unilaterally that the other country's government procurement is discriminatory and further that the U.S. should request the holding of negotiations under the pressure of sanctions, by limiting the time," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said in a statement.

"This kind of unilateral approach...can possibly have a disturbing influence on the progress of the Uruguay Round (of global trade) negotiations," Foreign Ministry Press Secretary Masamichi Hanabusa said.

In a report to Congress on Friday, U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor accused Japan of discriminating against U.S. companies in bidding for government public works and threatened to impose trade sanctions if there is no negotiated settlement in two months.

Kantor said Japan maintains "persistent and significant" discrimination against U.S. companies in government procurement of construction, architectural and engineering services.

Invoking provisions of a 1988 trade law, Kantor said the U.S. will seek to open negotiations with Japan to address the Japanese public works market.

Kantor also announced a fresh review of Tokyo's purchase program of supercomputers, warning the U.S. will retaliate unless U.S. companies have a "fair" share of the Japanese market.

Hanabusa said in the statement, "The Japanese construction market is institutionally nondiscriminatory and open, and is not discriminatory in its dealings with any American firms."

If the U.S. government were to impose sanctions, Japan "would have to consider taking appropriate measures, including the possibility of counterretaliatory measures," he said.

On supercomputers, Hanabusa said each Japanese Government agency "is working to introduce models which best fit its needs, through transparent, open and nondiscriminatory competitive procedures."

"The U.S. decision to conduct a review under Section 306 (of its trade act) is a decision made unilaterally...and therefore, Japan will not be bound by it. Such a U.S. government decision is hardly understandable," he said.

The Construction Ministry also said in a statement, "It is unexpected and regrettable that the U.S. has unilaterally accused Japan of discrimination in public works construction."

The ministry denied that the Japanese Government is biased against U.S. companies in public works projects, saying they have made considerable accomplishments in receiving orders for such work.

The ministry said it is ready for talks with the U.S. as part of reviewing the 1988 Japan-U.S. procurement agreement but it will not negotiate under the U.S. threatening sanctions.

The 1988 act stipulated U.S. builders be given easier access to bidding for public works projects in Japan.

There are 36 such projects, including Kansai International Airport under constuction on a man-made island in Osaka.

Japan and the U.S. postponed a review meeting, which was to be held in April, with their differences being too wide on the issue, according to ministry sources.

Effect of U.S. Sanctions Assessed

OW0105053493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0416 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] Tokyo, May 1 KYODO—Japanese contractors do not expect to suffer much if the United States goes ahead with threats to impose trade sanctions on Japan's construction business, industry sources said Saturday [1 May].

U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor on Friday accused Japan of discriminating against U.S. contractors in bids for government public works projects and threatened sanctions if there is no negotiated settlement in two months.

An industry source said Japan's construction business would suffer little damage if Japanese companies are locked out of U.S. public works projects since Japanese contractors have in the past only received a small amount of work in the U.S.

"I don't quite understand why the U.S. accuses Japan at this moment, the source said.

Taichiro Kumagai, president of Kumagai Gumi Co., Japan's leading general contractor, said the U.S. side would receive only a benefit if Japan were to open up its market more.

"American companies who aim to enter the Japanese construction market are not contractors but building designers and engineers. The U.S. would get little substantial merit from further opening of Japan's market," Kumagai said.

An official of another major construction company said American contractors are not actively pursuing business in Japan.

"Generally, only a small number of U.S. workers, maybe one or two, actually come to construction sites being managed by joint ventures between U.S. and Japanese companies. It seems quite doubtful that American business sectors are eager to enter Japan's construction market," the official said.

Defense Agency Head Leaves for Visit to U.S.

OW0105035993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0343 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] Tokyo, May 1 KYODO—Defense Agency Director General Toshio Nakayama left Saturday [1 May] for an eight-day visit to the United States that includes talks with U.S. Defense Secretary Les Aspin.

The talks in Washington on Monday may focus on North Korea, which has declared it will withdraw from the nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, officials said.

Nakayama, state minister of defense, will visit New York and meet UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali on Tuesday, the officials said.

Nakayama will urge Butrus-Ghali to tighten safety measures for peacekeepers in Cambodia in the wake of increasing guerrilla attacks there, they said.

Japan's Self-Defense Forces, which come under Nakayama's authority, have a 600-member engineering team in Cambodia for road and bridge construction work. Japan will also send a 53-member peacekeeping unit to Mozambique later this month.

Nakayama will return to Tokyo next Saturday after visiting the headquarters of U.S. Pacific forces in Hawaii.

Chances of Yeltsin Visit Decrease to '50-50'

OW3004153093 Tokyo KYODO in English 1517 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 30 KYODO—The likelihood of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's trip to Japan materializing in late May has been reduced to "50-50" due to a failure to narrow differences over the longstanding territorial dispute between the two countries, a Russian source said Friday [30 April].

The source said little headway has been made on the territorial issue in a series of meetings in Tokyo between Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Kunadze and senior Japanese Foreign Ministry officials.

The source is presently in Japan, traveling with Kunadze on his current trip to Tokyo.

Japanese Government sources say Tokyo has suggested May 25 to 27 for Yeltsin's visit.

Yeltsin abruptly canceled a planned trip to Japan last September, citing the insistent Japanese demand for the return of four Russian- held islands off Hokkaido, taken by forces of the former Soviet Union at the end of World War II.

Hokkaido Requests Tokyo's Aid for Russian-Occupied Island

OW3004132193 Tokyo KYODO in English 1226 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Sapporo, April 30 KYODO—The prefectural government of Hokkaido called on the central government Friday [30 April] to furnish aid to the Russian-occupied Etorofu Island to help islanders purchase fuel, prefectural officials said.

The prefectural government's move followed its receipt of a telegram addressed to Hokkaido Governor Takahiro Yokomichi from Vladimir Kashpruk, chairman of the council of Russia's Kuril region, the officials said.

In the telegram, Kashpruk called for 50 million yen in assistance to the people on Etorofu—one of the four Russian-held islands off Hokkaido which are claimed by Japan—to help them purchase fuel for generating electricity, the officials said.

The Hokkaido Government, judging it should not act independently in response to the Russian request, reportedly asked Japan's Foreign Ministry to include the aid to Etorofu islanders in an aid package to Russia being planned by the government.

The regional government also relayed its stand to Kashpruk by telex, the officials said.

The telegram, the first such aid-seeking request from Russia to Hokkaido, reportedly pointed out a failure by Russian President Boris Yeltsin and the Congress of People's Deputies of Sakhalin to tackle the energy shortage on Etorofu Island and carried the number of a bank account through which the aid money should be transferred.

Tokyo seeks the return of Etorofu and three other islands—Kanashiri, Shikotan and the Habomai group of islets—which the former Soviet Union seized in 1945 at the end of World War II.

International Panel To Study Disposing of Russian Plutonium

OW3004121093 Tokyo KYODO in English 1137 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 30 KYODO—Japan has drafted a plan to set up an international committee to study measures for disposing of plutonium generated from the dismantling of nuclear weapons in Russia, government officials said Friday [30 April].

According to the draft plan, the committee will be comprised of three subcommittees that will study disposal methods and the storage of the highly toxic substance that is produced from the dismantling of the weapons.

The committee will also develop measures to use the plutonium for peaceful purposes, the officials said.

After the plan is given final approval by government ministries and agencies concerned, Japan will urge Russia, the United States and European countries to take part in the projects, the officials said.

The committee will study proposals over the next five years and Japan will cover all expenses, which are estimated to cost more than 10 billion yen, as part of the nation's economic assistance to Russia, the officials said.

As for peaceful uses for plutonium, the committee will study a proposal that calls for mixing the substance with uranium to be utilized in nuclear power plants in Russia.

A plan to construct nuclear facilities in Russia for the exclusive use of plutonium will also be studied by the committee.

The volume of plutonium expected to be produced in the dismantling of Russian nuclear weapons, which is in line with the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaties (START) I and II signed by Russia and the U.S., will amount to some 100 tons.

The issue of plutonium disposal was raised by foreign and finance ministers from the Group of Seven (G-7) countries when they met in Tokyo in mid-April to discuss aid for Russia.

The G-7 leaders agreed that disposal of plutonium in Russia will have a great impact on global security, the officials said.

Miyazawa Returns Home From Oceania Visit

OW0205092293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0811 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] Tokyo, May 2 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa returned home Sunday [2 May], ending a four-day visit to Australia and New Zealand.

In separate summit talks with New Zealand Prime Minister James Bolger in Auckland on Saturday and Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating in Canberra on Friday, Miyazawa agreed with both on the necessity of an early conclusion of the Uruguay Round of global trade talks.

Miyazawa's talks with Keating and Bolger also included the landmark elections this month in Cambodia, and other regional and bilateral issues.

After arriving at Haneda airport, Miyazawa went to the resort town of Karuizawa in Nagano Prefecture, north of Tokyo, where he will stay at a hotel during consecutive holidays until Wednesday.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono and Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Motoji Kondo will also be in Karuizawa on Monday.

Finance Minister Attends IMF Talks, Urges Growth

OW3004155293 Tokyo KYODO in English 1533 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Washington, April 30 KYODO—Japanese Finance Minister Yoshiro Hayashi said Friday [30 April] each country must seriously work out structural policies to achieve sustainable growth and improve domestic employment conditions.

Speaking at the morning session of the biannual meeting of the interim committee of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Hayashi said nations must make efforts to improve their industrial competitiveness and attain a more flexible labor market.

He said the world economy is on its way to a mild recovery although the situation differs from country to country.

The Group of Seven leading industrialized nations (G-7) agreed here Thursday prior to the IMF meeting to cooperate in the economic policy coordination process to strengthen growth free of inflationary pressures.

The Japanese finance minister also urged the leading industrialized nations to work to reduce their fiscal deficits.

Welcoming the recent economic growth of developing nations, Hayashi said Japan is currently working out "the funds for development initiative" for such countries comprised of untied loans by the Export-Import Bank of Japan and export credits, in addition to its Official Development Assistance (ODA).

Hayashi welcomed establishment of the Systemic Transformation Facility (STF) within the IMF which is intended to support the transition of the former centrally planned economies into market economies, but with respect to Russia, he stressed the need for the former Soviet republic to make voluntary self-efforts to stabilize macroeconomic conditions.

The Japanese finance minister criticized what he called an excessive focus on bilateral trade imbalances, which he warned could lead to damaging of the multilateral free trade system.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen said Thursday after the G-7 meeting that Japan needs to do more to stimulate its domestic demand in order to ease its trade imbalance with the United States.

Japan posted a 49 billion dollar surplus against the U.S. in 1992.

Hayashi indicated that the North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) will be open to nonregional trade and can therefore contribute to boosting the overall global economy.

Hayashi also explained to the 22-nation IMF committee that signs of economic recuperation are emerging in Japan although conditions still remain uncertain.

He said the government announced a 13.2 trillion yen (about 120 billion dollars) economic stimulation program on April 13 following a similar 10.7 trillion yen scheme last August in addition to a specially tailored fiscal 1993 budget so that the country will be able to secure its path toward recovery.

The afternoon session of the IMF meeting will focus on the transformation of the former centrally planned economies and financing conditions for low-income nations.

Hayashi and the Bank of Japan (BOJ) governor, Yasushi Mieno, are scheduled to hold a press conference in the evening.

Urges Capital Flow to Third World

OW0105162393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1548 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] Washington, May 1 KYODO—Japanese Finance Minister Yoshiro Hayashi called Saturday [1 May] for boosting the flow of private capital to developing nations to complement crucial Official Development Assistance (ODA) programs.

"Japan is currently in the process of drawing 'funds for development' initiative which will include not only ODA but also untied loans by the Export-Import Bank of Japan, trade insurance and other non-ODA official funds" to secure capital flows to developing areas through diverse channels, Hayashi said.

The finance minister, speaking at the 46th Development Committee of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank, invited other industrialized countries to make similar efforts.

As for developing nations, Hayashi said they must try to achieve political and social stability while implementing sound macroeconomic policies. In this way, he said, private capital will naturally move into those areas.

Industrialized nations must work on raising private-sector savings and continue reducing fiscal deficits, he added.

Hayashi called for international financial institutions to support structural reforms and infrastructural improvements in the developing world.

He recommended greater use of the World Bank's expanded co-financing operations (ECO) and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA).

Hayashi also said the World Bank must focus on improving the quality of financing commitments in addition to quantitative aspects. He said Japan is willing to fully cooperate in formulating potential follow-up programs.

The finance minister said that despite the economic slowdown Japan has agreed to contribute 2.6 billion dollars in IMF special drawing rights (SDRs), or 20 percent of the 13 billion dollar SDR replenishment of the International Development Association (IDA).

He said Japan already has completed necessary domestic procedures and deposited the instrument of commitment with the IDA, and urged other nations to go ahead with their subscription as soon as possible.

Departs for Japan

OW0205010593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0013 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] Washington, May 1 KYODO—Japanese Finance Minister Yoshiro Hayashi and Bank of Japan Governor Yasushi Mieno left Washington for home Saturday [1 May] after attending a series of international monetary meetings.

The two officials took part in gatherings of the Group of Seven industrialized nations and the International Monetary Fund. They are scheduled to arrive in Tokyo on Sunday [2 May] afternoon JST [Japan standard time].

Tokyo To Send Election Monitors to Djibouti, Paraguay

OW3004144393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1407 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 30 KYODO—Japan will dispatch a diplomat to Djibouti and two others to Paraguay to monitor presidential elections there, the Foreign Ministry said Friday [30 April].

A staff member of the Japanese embassy in France will help monitor the May 7 presidential election in the East African country of Djibouti, the ministry said.

Two government officials, including Aira Urabe, deputy director general of the ministry's Latin America and Caribbean Affairs Bureau, will be dispatched to Paraguay to monitor the May 9 presidential contest, the ministry said.

Japan will also send some 50 election monitors to Cambodia for general elections on May 23-28.

10 Poll Monitors Withdraw From Cambodia Assignment

OW3004123193 Tokyo KYODO in English 1159 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 30 KYODO—About 10 of the 52 Japanese candidates scheduled to work as election monitors in Cambodia have decided not to take the jobs for fear of injury or death due to intensifying guerrilla assaults in the country, a government official said Friday [30 April].

The International Peace Cooperation headquarters of the prime minister's office asked the 52 candidates by telephone over the last three days to confirm their intention to monitor the election in the Southeast Asian country on May 23-28.

About 10 candidates, including municipal government officials, declined to go and some candidates said they have not yet decided if they will join the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) as election monitors, the official said.

Of the candidates, 16 are municipal government officials, five are central government officials and 31 are volunteers.

They are scheduled to leave Japan for Bangkok on May 12 to receive instructions for the election.

The Japanese Government on Tuesday announced the decision to send election monitors to Cambodia.

Over the past few months, the Khmer Rouge faction has allegedly stepped up attacks on UN peacekeepers and potential election monitors.

Atsuhito Nakata, a 25-year-old Japanese UN volunteer helping prepare for the election, was shot and killed in Cambodia in early April.

Tokyo, Beijing Study Joint Telecommunications Venture

OW3004131993 Tokyo KYODO in English 1250 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 30 KYODO—Japan and China have agreed to study the setting up of a bilateral joint venture to establish mobile telecommunications [telecom] networks in China in response to fast-growing demand there, the Japanese Government said Friday [30 April]. The agreement, the first concrete cooperation between the two governments in the telecom sector, emerged from bilateral talks on telecommunications held earlier in the day in Beijing. The meeting was the first of what is to be a regular series.

Chinese telecommunications networks continue to be relatively backward, failing to catch up with surging telephone demand stemming from the national economic boom. The pressing need to upgrade the telecom system has pushed local governments in such big centers as Beijing and Shanghai to budget massive sums for telecom projects, while Hainan Province has allowed Canadian investors to form a joint venture for mobile phones.

The Chinese telecom market is potentially so enormous that foreign companies like the Japanese telecom giant Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. (NTT) cannot forego the opportunity to cash in. In an initiative separate from that of the government, NTT President Masashi Kojima visited Beijing earlier this month, and met government officials including Minister of Posts and Telecommunications Wu Jichuan. Kojima is keen on securing a stake in the expanding Chinese market, saying, "the next 30 years will be the China age."

Justice Minister Gotada Leaves for China

OW0305045693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0303 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] Tokyo, May 3 KYODO—Masaharu Gotoda, deputy prime minister and justice minister, left Monday for China under a judiciary exchange program.

Gotoda will be the first Japanese justice minister to visit China in 14 years, following the 1979 visit by the late Yoshimi Furui.

He will meet with Chinese judiciary officials during his eight-day visit.

On Tuesday, Gotoda is scheduled to meet Jiang Zemin, president and communist party leader, and Qiao Shi, Standing Committee chairman of the National People's Congress.

Gotoda will return home next Monday.

Poll: Preventing Corruption Highest Public Priority

OW0305043693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0255 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] Tokyo, may 3 KYODO—Nearly half of Japanese voters think priority should be given to anticorruption measures rather than electoral reform, contrasting with Diet debates focusing on the latter, according to an ASAHI SHIMBUN poll published Monday.

The ASAHI survey showed 49 percent of the pollees picked the "strengthening of punishment to prevent political corruption," from among four replies in a question on what is most urgent in prospective political reform.

Twenty-three percent picked "tightening of controls on political funds," 16 percent preferred "reforming election system" and 4 percent chose "giving of public subsidies to political parties." The remaining 8 percent gave no clear answer.

The newspaper conducted the survey on the political reformprocess through nationwide interviews April 25-26 covering 3,000 voters, of whom 2,312, or 77 percent, responded.

Political reform has emerged as the biggest theme for the Diet and the government since power broker Shin Kanemaru quit last October after being fined 200,000 yen for accepting an illicit 500 million yen donation from the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin delivery firm.

Kanemaru was arrested and indicted in March for failing to declare 1.85 billion yen in income between 1987 and 1989 and evading 1.04 billion yen in income tax.

He allegedly siphoned off secret donations from business corporations, particularly construction companies, to amass a huge amount of personal assets in the form of real estate, bank debentures, stocks and gold bars.

The results of the poll reflect a discrepancy between political parties and voters over ways to implement reform, the ASAHI said.

The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and opposition parties are focusing on revising the electoral system rather than drawing up measures to prevent corruption.

The pollees were divided over how to revise the election system for the House of Representatives, with 21 percent supporting LDP-proposed single-seat constituencies and 14 percent favoring the existing system of multiseat electorates.

Only 9 percent supported a proportional representation-based system proposed jointly by the two largest opposition parties, the Social Democratic Party and Komeito.

However, 73 percent said both the LDP and opposition parties should strike a compromise to enact political reform bills.

But 61 percent said they cannot expect anything from the Diet on political reform.

The LDP, which has dominated Japan's politics since 1955, has proposed a package of four bills centering on revision of the lower house election system and stepping up controls on political funds.

The SDP-Komeito joint proposal is made up of six bills with similar priorities.

Asked what should happen if political reform cannot be achieved in the current Diet session ending June 20, 53 percent said dissolution of the lower chamber and 27 percent a cabinet resignation en masse, the ASAHI survey showed.

It also found 36 percent said they would vote for the LDP if general elections for the lower house had been held at the time of the survey. Fourteen percent backed the SDP and 12 percent endorsed the Japan New Party which was formed in July last year.

Miyazawa Advisory Body To Study Income Tax Cuts

OW0305073193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0709 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] Tokyo, may 3 KYODO—An advisory body to Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa will begin work next week on drawing up tax reforms, including proposed income tax cuts, government officials said Monday [3 May]. The move follows remarks by Miyazawa that discussions will begin this summer on income tax reduction in line with a compromise reached with opposition parties seeking big cuts to stimulate the ailing economy.

The tax commission, chaired by Kan Kato, a professor at Keio University, will hold a general session to review the tax system May 14 and submit final recommendations to the prime minister by the end of this year, the officials said. The reforms under consideration include hiking the consumption tax to 5 to 10 percent from its present 3 percent, simplifying the five-tier tax rate system to three tiers and raising the minimum taxable income, they said. The commission will set up subcommittees on specific issues after another general meeting is held in June.

Politicians Address Constitution Day Meetings

OW0305133193 Tokyo KYODO in English 1307 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] Tokyo, May 3 KYODO—Japan's contribution to the world community was the focus of rallies and lecture meetings held by political parties and civic groups nationwide Monday [3 May] to mark Constitution Day.

Sadao Yamahana, chairman of the largest opposition Social Democratic Party [of Japan—SDPJ] (SDP), criticized the overseas dispatch of the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) troops during a rally staged by an SDP affiliate organization at Tokyo's Hibiya Park. Yamahana said Japan should contribute to UN peacekeeping operations not by sending SDF troops but by nonmilitary activities through different organizations. He spoke to some 1,000 people who attended the symposium sponsored by the National Federation for Protection of the Constitution. Yamahana also called for new methods to defend the Constitution in opposition to demands by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) to revise the Constitution.

Article 9 of the Constitution renounces war and the threat or use of force as a means of settling international disputes. Japan sent SDF troops to Cambodia after enacting a bill last year for a UN peacekeeping cooperation law, which was the result of fierce marathon debates in the Diet. The government also plans to send an SDF unit to Mozambique. The LDP supported the bill together with two centrist parties, Komeito and the

Democratic Socialist Party, while the SDP and the Japanese Communist Party opposed to it.

Various citizens' groups also met on the day in support or in opposition to revision of the Constitution. About 1,200 people attended a meeting called by Mutsuko Miki, wife of the late Prime Minister Takeo Miki, demanding that revision of Article 9 not be allowed. Nationalists and rightists, including some LDP Diet members, called for revision of the Constitution to enable Japan to make a more active contribution to UN peacekeeping operations. Mutsuo Kimura, former House of Councillors president and head of the National Congress for Enacting an Autonomous Constitution Group, said it is inevitable that UN peacekeeping forces will have to become corps using force. Kimura told the group's meeting held at Tokyo's Chiyoda public hall, where about 700 were in attendance, that amendment of Article 9 was an urgent task. The group offered a 35-point draft proposal calling for the formation of a real military force, rather than the existing SDF. The People's Congress To Protect Japan, a citizens' group calling for drastic revision of the Constitution, held a meeting commemorating its 10th anniversary and urged the emperor be named as head of state. The group's President Toshiro Mayuzumi said he supports a new, rather than amended, version of the Constitution.

North Korea

Reportage on Nuclear Treaty Withdrawal Continues

Minister Names Conditions for Rejoining NPT

OW0305105993 Tokyo KYODO in English 1022 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, May 3 KYODO—A North Korean Government official Monday [3 May] named four conditions that must be met if it is to rejoin the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT].

Information Minister Kim Ki-yong, on a visit to Malaysia, said Pyongyang wants a neutral International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and assurances that its military sites will remain closed to foreign checks.

The minister also said his country wants the United States to guarantee it will not use nuclear force against North Korea and that the U.S. withdraw any nuclear weapons and facilities it may have in South Korea.

"If these conditions are met, we may rejoin the treaty," he told reporters, adding North Korea has no wish or potential to make nuclear weapons.

North Korea announced it was leaving the pact in mid-March to avoid IAEA inspection of two nuclear sites in Yongbyon suspected of being used to produce nuclear weapons.

Kim also said North Korea will meet the U.S. for talks aimed at defusing tension caused by its pullout, provided the U.S. also meets these conditions and stops bullying small nations to do its bidding.

The U.S. was reported last week to be interested in opening high-level talks with North Korea to negotiate on Pyongyang's withdrawal and resolving the crisis.

North Korea's withdrawal from the treaty strengthened international suspicions that despite Pyongyang's denials, it has a nuclear weapons program. The pullout takes effect from June 12.

Kim said North Korea will allow IAEA inspection of a nuclear power plant in Yongbyon but not at a nearby military base which is exempt from such checks under the treaty.

"We can't allow the military facilities to be opened up to the IAEA, the U.S. or anyone else because it's a matter of our sovereignty," he said.

Kim also accused the IAEA of being a tool of the U.S., instead of remaining neutral, because it acted against Pyongyang based on satellite photographs and information given by the U.S.

"The U.S. must change its stand of trying to use its might to force countries, especially third world nations like us, to do what it wants," he said.

The U.S., he added, should stop using "double standards" in insisting North Korea open its nuclear facilities while ignoring those of Israel and South Africa, both widely believed capable of making nuclear bombs, he said.

Spokesman: Pyongyang Ready for U.S. Talks

SK0105105593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1043 GMT 1 May 93

["Spokesman of DPRK Foreign Ministry Answers Question Raised by KCNA"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, May 1 (KCNA)—A spokesman for the DPRK Foreign Ministry gave Saturday the following answer to the question put by KCNA in regard to the talk now rife that some member nations of the United Nations Security Council are circulating a draft "resolution" against the DPRK despite the development that there is the prospect of solving the nuclear problem as the DPRK-U.S. talks are coming to maturity and negotiations with the International Atomic Energy Agency are also in progress these days.

It is our invariable stand that the nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula can be settled only through the DPRK-U.S. talks.

We are ready to hold fruitful talks with the United States.

If our negotiations with the United States are opened, we wish to discuss matters of common concern with practical measures to find a solution to the nuclear problem on the Korean penisula as the main topic.

This notwithstanding, should such an unreasonable draft "resolution" as that now being circulated be adopted at the U.N. Security Council, it would be an intolerable infringement upon our sovereignty and result in spoiling the positive atmosphere of negotiations.

It would be a contradictory attitude negating its stand itself if the U.N. Security Council adopted a "resolution" blocking negotiations after officially declaring its will to pursue negotiations.

If the U.N. Security Council commits a rash act under the influence from someone, it will bring extremely adverse consequences to the image of the United Nations.

Official Urges U.S. Noninterference

SK3004121893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1112 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 30 (KCNA)—"The United States must stop interfering in the internal affairs of our nation so that it may achieve a great unity and solve the reunification of the country by its own efforts, must pull its troops and nuclear weapons out of South Korea without delay, immediately refrain from such foolish acts as meddling in the internal affairs of our country and trying to take international "sanctions" against it by instigating the International Atomic Energy Agency, and respond in good faith to DPRK-U.S. talks from an equal and fair position," urged Choe Tae-pok, alternate Politburo member and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, at a national meeting held today to celebrate May Day, the international holiday of the workers around the world.

Noting that the U.S. imperialists staged "Team Spijit" nuclear war exercises on the plea of the fictitious "nuclear suspicion" to push the situation on the Korean peninsula to an extreme pitch of strain, threaten the security of the Korean people and challenge the cause of socialism, he warned:

"It is a big mistake and foolish dream if the United States think it can frighten our people or 'subjugate' them with any military threat, or provocation, or 'sanctions'.

"Our working class has the wise guidance of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, ever-victorious iron-willed brilliant commander, and the singlehearted unity of the leader, the party and the masses, and a-match-for-a-hundred revolutionary Armed Forces intensely loyal to the party and the leader and a strong independent national economy.

"If the U.S. imperialists dare attempt to impair the dignity and sovereignty of our country, our working class and other people will counter it with a decisive self-defensive measure and the enemy would get only corpses and deaths."

U.S. Commits 'Aerial Espionages' on North 28-29 Apr

SK0105090093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0818 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] Pyongyang, May 1 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists committed aerial espionages on the northern half of Korea on 200 odd occasions in April, according to military sources.

On the 28th and 29th they let RC-135 strategic reconnaissance plane make a shuttle flight along the area of the South side near the Military Demarcation Line [MDL] for air photographing and electronic reconnaissance on the northern half of Korea as a whole. And they sent a U-2 high-altitude strategic reconnaissance plane to the sky above the MDL area Thursday to commit an espionage on the strategic depths of the northern half of Korea.

Aerial espionages by the U-2 in April totaled more than 50 occasions.

The U.S. imperialists Wednesday let seven reconnaissance planes of different types including RV-1 fly above Kanghwa islet, Pochon, Yanggu and Sokcho for espionage on coastal and frontline areas of the North side. They also committed espionage on the inland area of the northern half of Korea by E-3 early warning plane from the 26th to 29th.

Such espionage of the U.S. imperialists clearly shows how desperately they are running amuck in preparations for another war against the North.

Ministry Denies 'Shooting Incident' at PRC Border

SK0305152193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1513 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] Pyongyang, May 3 (KCNA)—The spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea granted an interview to KCNA today on the false rumours spready by U.S. and some other Western media as if there were some "problem" between the DPRK and China.

He told KCNA:

"U.S. and some other Western media are these days spreading false rumours that there occurred a "shooting incident" on the borderline between Korea and China and diplomatic contact between Korea and China has been suspended.

"This is a groundless fabrication and a despicable plot of the imperialists to drive a wedge between the Korea-China relations.

"With no amount of manoeuvrs can the imperialists break the blood-sealed traditional friendly relations between Korea and China."

UN Official in Beijing Denies 'Commotion' in North City

SK0305102193 Seoul YONHAP in English 1008 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] Beijing, May 3 (YONHAP)—A United Nations organization official posted here in Beijing on Monday [3 May] denied "as not true" some press reports that a demonstration or a commotion occurred in the North Korean border city of Shinuiju on last April 21-23.

"I stayed in Shinuiju in a period covering the given dates in connection with an international project, but it was very quiet in Shinuiju during the period," the official said.

He also said that during his stay in North Korea, he heard nothing about any North Korea-China border clash or movement of corps-level military units in North Korea.

'Sources': Intermediate-Range Missiles To Deploy

OW3004233093 Tokyo KYODO in English 2246 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, May 1 KYODO—North Korea is expected to deploy this year new intermediate-range ballistic missiles that are capable of striking western Japan, the YOMIURI SHIMBUN reported Saturday.

The daily newspaper quoted Japanese Defense Agency sources as saying North Korea is suspected of conducting development of nuclear weapons and the nuclear-capable Nodong-1 missile would pose a "major threat" to Japan.

In a meeting Monday in Washington, the defense ministers of Japan and the United States, Toshio Nakayama and Les Aspin, are expected to disuss North Korea's missile development, the YOMIURI said.

Nodong-1, with a range of 1,000 kilometers, is based on the Soviet-designed Scud missile which Iraq used in the 1991 Persian Gulf war.

The new missile may be capable of carrying biochemical warheads, the YOMIURI said.

Minister Denies Missiles Aimed at Japan

OW0305111193 Tokyo KYODO in English 1047 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, May 3 KYODO—North Korean Information Minister Kim Ri-yong said Monday [3 MAY] Pyongyang does not intend to use its new nuclear-capable, medium-range Nodong missile against Japan or other neighboring countries.

He also dismissed as propaganda a recent news report, quoting Japanese Defense Agency sources, that the missiles pose a threat because they have a range of 1,000 kilometers, capable of hitting western Japan. "This report is put out by Japan so that it can have an excuse to build nuclear bombs for defense," he said, adding this suspicion was reinforced by Japan's plan to import large amounts of reprocessed plutonium from western countries. "Japan is very advanced, so if it wants to make a nuclear bomb, it can. It's very dangerous especially with the plutonium," said Kim who is on a visit to Malaysia. He also said the missile report is a ploy to put more pressure on North Korea, which is widely suspected of having a nuclear weapons program despite Pyongyang's denial.

A Japanese daily, the YOMIURI SHIMBUN, reported Saturday [1 May] that North Korea is expected to complete development of the Nodong missile, based on the Soviet-designed Scud missile used in the 1991 Persian Gulf war, this year. The missile will be able to carry nuclear warheads as well as chemical and biological weapons, the daily said.

KCNA Criticizes Japan's Construction of Nuclear Plant

SK0105090793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0821 GMT 1 May 93

["Japan's Moves for Nuclear Arming"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, May 1 (KCNA)—The construction of a large-scale nuclear reprocessing plant with a plottage of about 3.8 million square meters started in Rokkasho, Aomori Prefecture, Japan, Wednesday.

It is reported that the plant will have a capacity to reprocess 800 tons of spent nuclear fuel and extract annually five tons of plutonium.

The construction will reportedly cost about 840 billion yen.

Nuclear experts foresee that Japan will possess 120 tons of plutonium by the year 2010.

Japan is storing plutonium which can be used as material for atomic bombs, too much for peaceful purposes.

Her moves toward nuclear arming pose a grave threat to the peoples of Asia and the rest of the world who want peace, causing deep apprehensions among the Korean people in particular.

Nevertheless, Japan is zealously taking part in a smear campaign against the DPRK, expressing "concern" and talking about "international sanctions" over the fictitious "development of nuclear weapons" ty the DPRK.

Japan, instead of trying to find fault with others, must stop at once her criminal moves toward nuclear arming which would plunge mankind into a holocaust.

Visiting Japanese Group, Delegations Arrive 30 Apr

SK0105084593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0828 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] Pyongyang, May 1 (KCNA)—A Hokkaido visiting group of the Japan Social-Democratic Party for Japan-DPRK friendship led by Seiichi Ikehata, Social-Democratic member of the House of Representatives and executive chairman of the Hokkaido headquarters of the party, a delegation of the Japan-DPRK Buddhist Friendship Association led by Shusan Ota, director general of the association, and a Kyoto academic and cultural delegation of Japan led by Azuma Okuda, former president and honorary professor of Kyoto University of Japan, arrived here on April 30.

Historians Hold Conference on 'Comfort Women'

SK3004051393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0450 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 30 (KCNA)—A round-table conference of a Japanese lawyer, Etsuro Tozuka, who majors in international law on human rights, and Korean historians and those who had been drafted as "comfort women" for the Japanese army, was held here.

At the conference Etsuro Tozuka heard about historical materials on the illegality of the old "treaties" including the "Ulsa (1905) five-point treaty" between old Korea and Japan. And he heard and confirmed testimonies of former "comfort women for the army" about the never-to-be-condoned barbarities committed by the Japanese imperialists against Korean women, and materials showing the forcible drafting of Koreans by the Japanese imperialists.

The Japanese lawyer said he felt shame as a member of the offender side and he would actively cooperate in forcing the Japanese government to honestly atone for the crimes committed against the Korean people in the past by appealing to the United Nations and other international organizations.

South's Military Conducts 'Provocative Joint Exercise'

SK0205090193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0815 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] Pyongyang, May 2 (KCNA)—The South Korean military staged a provocative joint exercise of landing and ground battles simulating a coastal attack on the northern half of the country on the east coast of Korea for 10 odd days from April 20 to 30 with the mobilisation of the Marines, according to South Korean Radio No. 1.

Beside this war game, hysteric military exercises against the North such as the "Hwarang" and "Ssangnyong 93" maneuvers were staged in late April in South Korea.

Facts expose that the South Korean authorities and puppet military do not want the peace and peaceful reunification of the Korean peninsula but are running about with frenzy as ever in preparations for a war against the North.

Daily Stresses Need To End North-South 'Mistrust'

SK0305050893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0457 GMT 3 May 93

["Guiding Compass for Promoting National Unity and Trust—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, May 3 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN Sunday in a by-lined article explaining the 10-point programme of great unity of the whole nation advanced by the great leader President Kim Il-song stresses that the North and the South must seek reunification by means of confideracy based on one nation, one state, two systems and two governments on the principle of neither side conquering the other or being conquered by the other, not competing in ideology and system and not forcing its system on the other.

The great leader President Kim Il-song in the "10-point programme of great unity of the whole nation for Reunification of the country" says:

"5. They should dispel fears of invasion from the South and the North, prevail-over-communism and communization altogether and believe in and unite with each other.

The North and the South should not threaten and invade the other. Neither side should try to force its system on the other and to absorb the other."

The article goes on:

The biggest internal factor of the division of the country into the North and the South is mistrust and misunderstanding.

The root cause of mistrust and misunderstanding between the North and the South is the misgivings of each side that one side threatens the other side's existence. The North and the South must dispel the mutual mistrust and misunderstanding, an offspring of the era of confrontation, at any cost and be reconciled to and trust each other and live in peace.

If the two parts of the country are to remove mistrust and misunderstanding and promote trust and reconciliation, they should dispel above all fears of invasion from the other and the misgivings of prevail-over-communism and communization, too.

There is no doubt that, when the North and the South dispel fears of prevail-over-communism and communization and remove the threat of invasion from the North and from the South, a new phase of national unity and trust will be opened and, furthermore, a broad road will be paved for solving the question of national reunification in a peaceful way by the united strength of the whole nation.

CPRF Issues Statement Denouncing South Exercises

SK0105085093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0826 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] Pyongyang, May 1 (KCNA)—The Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland [CPRF] issued Information No. 626 on April 30 denouncing the South Korean authorities and military for aggravating the situation with anti-North war exercises.

The "Hwarang" war exercise of "civilian, official and military forces" have been held in South Korea since April 26. At the same time, the "Ssangyong 93" war exercise is going on frantically. This is a deliberate provocation of the South Korean military to quench the spirit for peaceful reunification growing among the South Korean people and aggravate North-South confrontation and tensions, says the information, and continues:

"The South Korean bellicose forces' sticking to North-South confrontation and war preparations is an open betrayal to the fellow countrymen's desire for peace and will for reunification at a time when the fellow countrymen must refrain from antagonism with each other and find a common way out through great unity of the whole nation.

"The South Korean authorities and military forces must immediately stop the anti-national crimes of following outside forces and inciting North-South confrontation and antagonism and take the road of national unity and peaceful reunification as indicated by the 10-point programme of great unity of the whole nation.

"If the South Korean authorities and military forces persistently pursue North-South confrontation and war ignoring our sincere efforts, they will have to bear full responsibility for all consequences arising therefrom."

KCNA Reports Student Demonstrations in South

SK3004051093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0444 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 30 (KCNA)—Students affiliated with the Seoul District Federation of General Student Councils and members of the Family Movement for Realizing Democracy in South Korea, more than 1,000 in all, held a rally and demonstration in Seoul Wednesday, a Seoul-based radio report said.

At the rally they vowed to fight for peace on the Korean peninsula upholding the intentions of the late Kim Se-chin and Yi Chae-ho who set themselves ablaze in 1986 in protest against the enlistment of students at the puppet army frontline units.

They went over to a demonstration, shouting slogans calling for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Korea.

In another development, an estimated 1,000 students affiliated with the Kwangju and South Cholla Provincial District Federation of General Student Councils Thursday held a demonstration near the "Kwangju American Centre" in western Kwangju demanding an apology of the United States for the murder of a South Korean woman Yun Kum-i.

They battled the teargas firing police with rocks.

Kim Il-song Greets Egyptian President Mubarak

SK0305112893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1056 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] Pyongyang, May 3 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on May 3 sent a message of greetings to Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, on the 65th birthday of the latter.

The message noted that the Egyptian people under the leadership of the president were making a great progress today in the endeavours to further consolidate the country's stability and develop the economy.

The Korean people rejoice as over their own over the achievements made by the friendly Egyptian people in building a new society.

Believing that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries would continue to develop favorably, the message sincerly wished the president greater success in his work for the country's independent development and a fair solution of the Middle East problem.

Meeting Marks Anniversary of Indonesian Ties

SK0205092193 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] The Foreign Ministry arranged a friendship meeting on 27 April on the occasion of the 28th anniversary of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's visit to Indonesia and the 29th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Indonesian Ambassador R. Muhamed Muharam Sumadipraja and embassy personnel were invited. Functionaries of relevant sectors attended the meeting with the guests.

The participants in the meeting saw Part 12 of the multi-part art film "The Nation and Destiny." The meeting proceeded in a friendly atmosphere.

British Parliamentarians Demand End to Nuclear Threat

SK0305111193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1040 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] Pyongyang, May 3 (KCNA)—A meeting of British parliamentarians calling for an end to the acts of threatening the DPRK over the "nuclear problem" was held recently.

Speaking at the meeting, Ernie Robert, former British parliamentarian and chairman of the Britain-Korea friendship committee, said that North Korea's withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty was a self-defensive measure in face of the unjust demand for the "inspection" of two military sites which are unrelated to nuclear activities.

Michael Hicks, general secretary of the Britannic Communist Party, in his speech expressed full support to the DPRK's efforts to denuclearize the Korean peninsula and demanded that the United States withdraw the application of "double standards" to Korea.

Bennett Keith, political editor of the British paper ASIAN TIMES, in his speech said that the IAEA's [International Atomic Energy Agency] unjustifiable demand for the "inspection" of two military sites of the DPRK on the basis of "materials" provided by the United States was an infringement upon its sovereignty, as it had nothing to do with the nuclear safeguard agreement and demanded that the U.S. President, British prime minister and other Western authorities stop the anti-DPRK smear campaign forthwith.

Burney Grant, a member of the British House of Commons, and other figures said that the U.S. nuclear threat must be removed from the Korean peninsula and Western countries stop the clamor against the DPRK at once.

National Events Celebrate International May Day

Officials Greet May Day

SK0205090493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0820 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] Pyongyang, May 2 (KCNA)—Working class and other working people in all parts of Korea significantly celebrated May Day, the international holiday of the workers of the world.

Kang Song-san, Yi Chong-ok, Pak Song-chol and other senior officials of the party and government, chairmen of commissions and ministers of the Administration Council, chief officials of the local party and administrative and economic organs went to factories and enterprises on May Day and enjoyed the holiday with workers.

At the Anju district coal mining complex, the Chollima steel complex, the Taean heavy manchine complex, the February 8 vinalon complex, the Pyongyang thermal power complex, the Kumsong tractor complex and other industrial establishments across the country, the senior officials congratulated the workers on their feats in production and construction and spent a pleasant time, having sports and amusement games, dancing parties and other functions with workers.

They also saw exhibits of achievements of workers, conversed with labour innovators and called on workers families, inspiring the workers always playing the pivotal role in accomplishing the revolutionary cause of chuche with revolutionary enthusiasm and confidence.

Artistes of central art organizations including the Mansudae art troupe gave performances in parks and pleasure grounds of the capital, delighting the working people on the holiday and greatly encouraging them in their work to greet the 40th anniversary of the victory of the Korean people in the Fatherland Liberation War with high political enthusiasm and brilliant results.

Official Meets Workers

SK0305014193 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 1 May 93

[Excerpt] Comrade So Yun-sok, member of the Political Bureau of the Workers Party of Korea Central Committee, responsible secretary of the South Pyongan Provincial Party Committee, and chairman of the South Pyongan Provincial People's Committee, had a good time with the workers of the Sunchon Cement Complex on May Day, an international holiday of workers around the world. [passage omitted]

Officials Attend National Meeting

SK3004122393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1046 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 30 (KCNA)—A national meeting took place at the People's Palace of Culture today to celebrate May Day, the international holiday of the workers around the world.

Present at the meeting were Vice President Yi Chong-ok and Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam who are Politburo members of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, and other senior party and government officials.

Foreign diplomatic envoys and foreign guests staying here were invited.

Choe Tae-pok, alternate Politburo member and secretary of the C.C., the WPK, delivered a report at the meeting.

He noted that over the past more than one century since the celebration of the first May Day the working class and other laboring masses of the world fought to break the chains of capital and build a new society free from exploitation and oppression and thus demolished the bulwark of capitalism and triumphantly blazed the trail to socialism with the might of unity, overcoming manifold difficulties and trials under the slogan "workers of the world, unite!"

He quoted the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song as saying:

"The rapid growth of the world's socialist forces and the steady upsurge of the people's revolutionary struggle is the basic trend of our times, a trend which no force can hold back; and the complete collapse of imperialism and the final victory of socialism is inevitable."

The reporter continued:

"Although the imperialists and renegades of socialism are making quite a noise as if capitalism 'triumphed' and socialism came to an 'end', the world's progressive people express deep sympathy with the Pyongyang declaration published in April last year. This clear proves that though socialism has suffered a setback in some countries, the socialist idea is alive and there still exist in the world powerful revolutionary forces championing the cause of socialism.

"The working class of our country now enjoy an independent and creative life to their heart's content in a society truly for the working class, the fruition of the noble intentions of our party which sets greatest store by the masses of people and spares nothing for their sake," he said, and went on:

"Now our working class and other masses are confronted with a noble and responsible revolutionary task to smash the counterrevolutionary offensive of the imperialists and defend and further advance the cause of the Korean-style socialism centred on the masses."

He denounced the imperialists and other reactionaries for trying Maliciously to stamp out the Korean cause of socialism by directing the brunt of attack against the DPRK, threatening it militarily and putting economic pressure on it.

He said:

"It is a big mistake and foolish dream if the United States think it can frighten our people or 'subjugate' them with any military threat, or provocation, or 'sanctions'.

"Our working class and other people have the wise guidance of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, an ever-victorious iron-willed brilliant commander, and the singlehearted unity of the leader, the party and the masses, and a-match-for-a-hundred revolutionary Armed Forces intensely loyal to the party and the leader and a strong independent national economy.

"If the U.S. imperialists dare attempt to impair the dignity and sovereignty of our country, our working class and other people will counter it with a decisive self-defensive measure, and the enemy would get only corpses and deaths."

The reporter said an important matter in defending and advancing the chuche cause of socialism at present is to defend the purity of the socialist idea and deeply cherish faith in socialism.

Referring to the question of national reunification, he urged the South Korean authorities to turn to the stand of national independence and make a bold decision to renounce the policy of dependence on outside forces, manifest their willingness to get U.S. forces withdrawn, cease joint military exercises with foreign troops for good and rid themselves of the U.S. "nuclear umbrella", as specified in the four-point demand raised at the fifth session of the ninth Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK.

He demanded that the United States stop interfering in the internal affairs of the Korean nation so that it may achieve a great unity and solve the reunification question of the country by its own efforts, pull its troops and nuclear weapons out of South Korea without delay, immediately refrain from such foolish acts as meddling in the internal affairs of Korea and trying to take international "sanctions" against it by instigating the International Atomic Energy Agency, and respond in good faith to DPRK-U.S. talks from an equal and fair position.

"If the South Korean workers want to deliver themselves out of the present-day miserable lot in which their human rights are ruthlessly violated, there is no other way but to fight in unity to realize independence and democratization of South Korean society and achieve the Reunification of the country," the reporter said.

"The prevailing situation demands that internationalist unity and solidarity be further strengthened among all the progressive people who aspire after socialism," he said, adding:

"The working class and other masses the world over must clearly see the reactionary nature of contemporary imperialism and its anti-popular nature and the inevitability of its downfall, firmly unitd under the banner of anti-imperialist independence and further strengthen international unity and solidarity to terminate imperialist domination and interference and defend and advance socialism.

"Our party and people will in the future, too, consistently implement the foreign policy of independence, peace and friendship, constantly develop the bonds of comradely unity and cooperation with the world's progressive people on the basis of independence, equality and the socialist idea and thereby make an active contribution to the common cause of mankind for defending and advancing the socialist cause against imperialism."

An appeal to the workers around the world was adopted at the meeting.

Workers' Appeal Adopted at Meeting

SK3004123993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1101 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 30 (KCNA)—An appeal to the workers of all countries was adopted at the national meeting held here today to celebrate May Day, the international holiday of the workers around the world, reflecting the unshakable faith and desire of the Korean working class to accomplish the revolutionary cause of the working class, the cause of socialism, together with the world progressive people.

The appeal says the common tasks facing the workers of the world are to build a new independent world free from domination, subjugation, aggression and war and advance toward socialism that provides the popular masses with a life truly worthy of man, an independent and creative life.

Noting that the world workers should be the vanguard in the fierce and righteous struggle for destroying capitalism and defending and advancing the cause of socialism, it sets forth the tasks facing them.

It calls upon the workers of the world to thwart and frustrate the anti-socialist moves of the imperialists and reactionaries and take the van in valiantly opening the way of the victory of the socialist cause in unity by strengthening class solidarity, irrespective of system, political view, ideology, religious belief, nation and boundary.

It stresses that they must resolutely smash the vicious moves of the imperialists and reactionaries to isolate, blockade and invade socialist countries by strengthening international support and solidarity in every way.

The appeal calls on the workers of those countries which have started the building of a new society, after undergoing national oppression and exploitation, and of non-aligned nations to vigorously struggle for independence, sovereignty and socialism and on the workers of the capitalist countries to staunchly turn out in the struggle for terminating exploitation and oppression and becoming true masters of their own destiny.

It also calls on the workers and progressive trade unions in the world to dynamically promote the accomplishment of the socialist cause, the human cause of independence, by forming a united front and strengthening the bonds of unity, cooperation and solidarity in every way on the principle of independence, equality and mutual respect.

Dailies Dedicate Articles to May Day

SK0105094593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0838 GMT 1 May 93

["Revolutionary Cause of Working Class Under Banner of Independence Is Invincible"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, May 1 (KCNA)—Papers here today dedicate editorials to the 103rd May Day, the international holiday of the working class.

NODONG SINMUN says unity and militant solidarity are a powerful weapon of the working class and a noble ideal of May Day.

The paper quotes the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song as saying:

"May Day is the holiday of the working class all over the world. May Day is the anniversary of the day when they fought in unity to free themselves from oppression, maltreatment and hunger."

The paper says:

The working class and other people of Korea have won a proud victory and greatly contributed to the international cause of the working class through a vigorous struggle for independence, sovereignty and socialism, holding high the banner of the chuche idea under the wise guidance of the party and the leader.

Our people are greatly proud of the heroic working class staunchly fighting, united with one mind around the party and the leader. This guarantees an endlessly bright future of our country and revolution.

It is an important task facing our working class and people to courageously fight to exalt Korean-style socialism with a firm conviction of socialism. A pressing task facing the working class and people in North and South is to fight to put an end to the nation's division and reunify the country. When the working class and all other people in North and South and all overseas compatriots staunchly fight under the 10-point programme of great unity of the whole nation which indicates the only path of the nation, the historical cause of national reunification will be achieved without fail and the dignity of the Koryo nation be displayed all over the world.

It is the unshakable will of our party and people to strengthen international solidarity and joint struggle with the working class and people of the world under the banner of socialism, the banner of independence.

If all people advocating independence are to unite and fight, the working class, their core force, should strengthen international unity and solidarity. The basis of international unity and solidarity is the idea of socialism and independence. Socialism is the idea of the working class and the banner of human liberation reflecting the desire of all nations and mankind for independence.

When the working class and people of the world take the Pyongyang declaration "Let Us Defend and Advance the Cause of Socialism" as the joint action programme and consolidate international unity and solidarity on the basis of the idea of socialism and independence and fight in unity, the cause of socialism will be defended resolutely and the cause of making the world independent be accomplished victoriously.

Our working class and people will resolutely defend the socialist system of chuche built at the cost of their blood and sweat under the guidance of the party and the leader, vigorously fight to realise the independent reunification of the country and global independence and thereby remain faithful as ever to their national and international obligation.

Kim Il-song Gives Farm 'On-the-Spot Guidance'

SK0305050293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0443 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] Pyongyang, May 3 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song gave on-the-spot guidance to the June 3 cooperative farm in Onchon County, South Pyongan Province, on April 30.

He was accompanied by premier of the Administration Council Kang Song-san, chief secretary of the South Pyongan Provincial committee of the Workers' Party of Korea So Yun-sok, secretary of the C.C., the WPK So Kwan-hui, chairman of the State Agricultural Commission Kim Won-chin and other officials concerned.

Going round the mechanised plots of the farm stretching on the west coast, President Kim Il-song acquainted himself in detail with the spring farming such as nursing of rice seedlings and paddy and non-paddy tillage, watched rice-transplanting, paddy ridge-making and other farm machines operating on fields and called a consultative meeting with officials concerned on the spot.

He expressed deep satisfaction when he heard that the June 3 cooperative farm had opened a prospect for doing farming by the efforts of the farm itself this year, unaided in workforce, by raising the proportion of the work done by machines and carrying out farming preparations and organisation of labor under a scrupulous plan as required by the chuche-method of farming.

Saying that the comprehensive mechanisation of agriculture is one of the important tasks laid down in the rural theses, he stressed that the comprehensive mechanisation of agriculture must be carried out at an early date, before anything else, if the farmers were to be freed from toilsome and difficult work and grain output be further boosted.

He said it was important to further increase the proportion of the work done by machines in each process of farming, if all the cooperative farms were to do effective farming by their own efforts.

He said that more tractors, trucks, and other highly efficient farm machines suited to the country's topographical conditions must be made and supplied so that all the labor-consuming farm work could be done with the help of machines and repair bases be built everywhere to repair and readjust farm machines in good time.

Pointing out that great achievements had been made in the extensive application of chemicals to farming in our country, he said the production capacity of the existing fertilizer factories should be increased and they be operated in full capacity to produce larger quantities of various kinds of effective chemical fertilizers and send them to the countryside.

He said that in order to increase crop yields, it was necessary to establish a scientific fertilizing system, apply various kinds of fertilizers in a scientific way to suit the condition of the growth of crops with the help of machines and increase their effectiveness.

He noted that if the already completed irrigation system were made to pay off more profusely and the tasks of mechanization and chemicalization completely fulfilled, our socialist countryside would be turned into a better place to live in. He expressed the belief that the June 3 cooperative farm would set the pace in the worthwhile efforts to this end.

President Kim Il-song said all the leading officials engaged in the rural economy and agricultural working people must make strenuous efforts to do farming by themselves with a strong sense of responsibility for the agriculture of the country.

Daily Urges Accelerated Construction

SK0205033193 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0025 GMT 30 Apr 93

[NODONG SINMUN 30 April editorial: "Let Us Hasten the Completion of 30,000 Houses in Pyongyang By Accelerating Construction"]

[Text] To hasten the completion of 30,000 houses in Pyongyang by actively accelerating building them is one of important tasks to be done by the construction sector this year.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: We have to prepare a better cultural living condition for the people by building many houses, including the 30,000 houses in Pyongyang, in a large scale in urban and rural areas this year.

The building of 30,000 houses in Pyongyang is a large construction plan that our party set out to prepare a better cultural living condition for the people.

Our builders and People's Army soldiers have vigorously carried out the construction of 30,000 houses in Pyongyang by displaying their lofty revolutionary spirit and mass heroism, upholding the party's huge plan of building the capital city. They are now expediting the construction in its final stage.

The house builders and People's Army soldiers have great energy and spirit and are speeding up the construction upholding the revolutionary slogan, "What the party decides, we will do." They are filled with the lofty resolution to complete the construction of 30,000 houses shortly so as to make a report of loyalty to the party and the leader.

We, however, cannot be satisfied with this. We have only a few months before the 40th anniversary of the victory in the Fatherland Liberation War, but still have a lot of tasks to work out.

In order to hasten the completion of 30,000 houses in Pyongyang as they determined to do for the party, the builders and People's Army soldiers building in the capital city should speed up the construction and fulfill assigned tasks in a timely manner without fail.

All builders and People's Army soldiers in the capital city should vigorously carry out the struggle to hasten the completion of 30,000 houses in Pyongyang by accelerating the construction with a faith in victory, so that they can brilliantly adorn the 40th anniversary of the war victory.

The revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude and mass heroism are the trait of struggle that builders and People's Army soldiers should greatly display now in vigorously accelerating the construction of 30,000 houses in Pyongyang.

The prevailing situation and heavy revolutionary tasks we face today demand that our people live more stoutly and struggle heroically with the invincible spirit of struggle and peerless spirit of self-sacrifice which they greatly displayed in the grim days of war.

With a firm determination to unconditionally fulfill their assignment of house building with their own strength, all builders should hasten the completion of the houses by all means, by bravely overcoming all difficulties and hardships.

We can overcome all difficulties and occupy all fortresses when all functionaries and builders work with the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude that, without the support from above, which they would welcome, they can manage things with their own strength.

Nothing can be done well without organization. The spirit of self-reliance and fortitude can bring about greater substantial results when it is backed up with functionaries' complete organizational and political work.

All functionaries, who are participating in building 30,000 houses in Pyongyang, should estimate various conditions and possibilities and should establish a processing plan to expedite construction. They should work out lofty combat targets and carry out the guaranteed work based on such targets.

Functionaries should not discontinue any work after it was only launched and by merely emphasizing the work. They should take close follow-up actions so that the work can be executed to the end.

Functionaries should also lead the masses by personal example not only by carrying out the combat organizational work but also by rushing in difficult and arduous works.

They should pay keen attention to guaranteeing the quality of construction of 30,000 houses in Pyongyang. Construction of houses in the capital city is a very important work to realize the lofty intention of our party which is struggling to provide the workers in the capital with more civilized and stable living conditions.

By cherishing a pride and honor as builders of the capital, all builders should pay keen attention to ensure the quality of the work of making even a piece of brick and of plastering even a small space. They should carry out all works qualitatively and solidly so that they can take pride in their work even after the passage of many years.

Today construction of 30,000 houses in Pyongyang has entered into the stage of building internal structure, plastering, installing water supply and drainage facilities, and building a heating system. Therefore, the timely production of cement and a concrete mix and responsibly guaranteeing various construction tools and construction materials required for building internal facilities of the houses are an important task raised before relevant domains and units.

Whether or not one can rapidly complete the construction of houses, whose basic structure has already been built, decisively depends on how the relevant domains produce and guarantee the materials required for the finishing-stage of construction.

The domains of construction materials, metallurgical industry and forestry should produce cement, steel and iron materials and lumber in a responsible manner and supply them to the construction sites of 30,000 houses in Pyongyang.

In particular, plants and enterprises, which are assigned with the work of producing and guaranteeing the products of construction tools and construction materials required for the finishing stage of building houses, should fully operate their facilities and should normalize the production at a high level.

Relevant domains and units in Pyongyang and local areas should continuously and vigorously support the construction of 30,000 houses in Pyongyang by reinvigorating the spirit that has been displayed in the past in actively supporting the construction of houses in the capital city both materially and mentally.

Party organizations at all levels in the construction domain should explain in depth the significance and importance of building 30,000 houses in Pyongyang to the builders.

Party organizations should keenly realize that inspiring the builders' spirit is an important demand for enhancing the speed and quality of building houses, and should carry out the political propaganda and economic agitation work in various forms among builders and soldiers of the People's Army.

Let us all maintain the militant alertness in a bid to timely crush the enemy's provocative maneuvers with heightened revolutionary vigilance and actively accelerate and complete the construction of 30,000 houses in Pyongyang with the high spirit as victors. Let us brilliantly decorate the 40th anniversary of victory in the war and more highly display the superiority of popular mass-centered socialism of our country which has embodied the chuche idea.

Daily Lauds 'Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo'

SK3004052993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0458 GMT 30 Apr 93

["Reasonable Reunification Formula Crystallizing Idea of National Independence"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 30 (KCNA)—The policy of founding a confederal state reclarified by the great leader President Kim Il-song in the "10-point programme of great unity of the whole nation for reunification of the country" is a highly important guideline which makes it possible to reunify the country at the earliest possible date by the Korean nation itself in conformity with the demand and interests of the nation and the realities of Korea, says NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article Thursday [29 April].

The article goes on:

The proposal of founding the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo [DCRK] is a patriotic reunification proposal aimed at reunifying the country and establishing an independent, unified state by the internal force of the nation, rejecting any outside interference through the unity of the North and the South on the principle of national independence.

The Korean nation must defend its national dignity and independence and become the master in the struggle to reunify the country. The DCRK founding proposal is based on the belief that reunification is quite possible regardless of differences in ideas and systems if priority is given to the national commonness which has formed through a long history of 5,000 years, and to the ardent desire of the fellow countrymen for reunification.

It is also based on the conception that different systems can exist in one country as people with differing ideas and isms live together in one country.

It is an independent reunification proposal proceeding from the assertion that the reunification desired by the Korean nation should be one to realize national independence, not to live shackled to others.

Since this proposal itself raises it as a basic prerequisite to reunify the country on the principle of national independence, a confederal republic, when it is founded, will firmly maintain independence in all spheres of state activities and exercise an independent policy so that independence of the Korean nation will be completely realized on a nationwide scale. The DCRK will oppose all manner of domination and subjugation and dependence on outside forces, exercise its full sovereignty in its internal and external activities and solve all problems in state administration independently in conformity with the fundamental interests of the Korean nation and specific conditions of the country.

It will thus become a full-fledged independent and sovereign, nonaligned state which is neither a satellite of any country nor dependent on any outside forces.

Daily Lauds 'Flawless' Socialist Chuche Idea

SK0305113093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1053 GMT 3 May 93

["Chuche Idea Is Great Banner Leading Socialist Cause of Present Times to Victory"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, May 3 (KCNA)—The chuche idea is a flawless socialist idea which constitutes the highest stage of development of human thought and a great banner leading the socialist cause of the era of independence to victory, says NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today dedicated to the 10th anniversary of the publication of "Let Us Advance Under the Banner of Marxism-Leninism and the Chuche Idea", a classical work of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il (May 3, 1983).

In the work Comrade Kim Chong-il gave a profound ideological and theoretical analysis and review of the history of the communist movement spanning one century and scores of years and the practical experience of the Korean revolution and clearly expounded that the great chuche idea is the most revolutionary and scientific guiding idea leading the socialist cause in the era of independence.

The article quotes the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as saying:

"By adhering to the chuche idea as our steadfast guiding principle, we have been able to carry on victoriously the revolution and construction without any deviation."

The article says:

The work is of great significance in the socialist theory and practice of the present times as it proves on a scientific basis the historical position of the chuche idea in the history of the revolutionary thought of the working class and its originality and validity and indicates in an allround way theoretical and practical problems in forcefully advancing the cause of socialism under the banner of chuche.

Now the attraction and influence of the chuche idea have grown immensely and it has become the publicly recognized guiding idea in the struggle to rebuild and advance the cause of socialism. This convincingly testifies to the validity and vitality of the idea and theory laid down in the work.

The enormous significance of the work also lies in that it clearly expounded that the chuche idea is the only ideological and theoretical weapon for the victory of the cause of socialism in the era of independence and gave clear-cut answers to questions of principle in leading the socialist cause to a new upsurge under the banner of the chuche idea.

To strengthen internationalist unity and solidarity in accomplishing the cause of socialism in the present period is an important factor for its victory.

Although the people's cause of independence is undergoing trials, they can check and frustrate the counterrevolutionary offensive of the imperialists and other reactionaries and win victory if all the progressive people and revolutionary parties of the world strengthen their solidarity and achieve comradely unity in struggle.

The work gives an overall exposition of the matters of principle in realizing global independence and pressing ahead with the cause of socialism, including the question of revolutionary parties maintaining independence, strengthening cooperation and solidarity and thwarting and frustrating the imperialist moves of aggression and war in concert.

The work thus serves as a highly important guideline which should be adhered to in the struggle for socialism.

Talk Stresses 'Unity' of 'Popular Masses'

SK0305123793 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0600 GMT 1 May 93

[Unattributed talk: "Socialism Is a Society Developing Through the United Strength of the Popular Masses"]

[Text] In his classical work "Abuses of Socialism Are Intolerable" the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il clearly elucidated guidelines to which the party and the state should strongly adhere in highly displaying the superiority of socialism.

One of the important ideas elucidated in the work is for the working class party and the state to recognize correctly the superiority of socialism, which develops in accordance with the united strength of the popular masses, and adhere to the policy and principle in conformity with it.

Socialism is a society which develops endlessly in accordance with the united strength of the popular masses. The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has taught: The essential superiority of socialism lies in the fact that society is endlessly developing in accordance with the united strength of the popular masses.

Unity of the popular masses in socialist society is a unity of ideological will based on socialist ideology. Socialist society is a society which develops in accordance with the united strength of the popular masses. Here lies its unprecedented superiority. Therefore, this ideology stems from the scientific view that the basic element in developing society is in man's ideological consciousness.

As pointed out by the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, for a society to develop means that man's position and role in the world is enhancing. This in turn means that the independence, creativity, and consciousness—the attributes of man—are increasing. In other words, man's role increases in conformity with the rise of independent ideological consciousness and creative ability, and that social wealth increase and social relations improve in accordance with the enhancement of man's role.

Therefore, the superiority of socialism is directed by how much a society enables man's independence, creativity, and consciousness to be highly displayed. Man's independence and creativity are ensured by his consciousness. Therefore, it can be said that consciousness plays a decisive role in the activity of man.

Ideological consciousness reflects the requirements and interests of man. It defines man's goal and direction of his activity as well as his will and fighting capacity. Therefore, the basic element that gives impetus to social development must always be ascribed to ideological consciousness. The ideological consciousness that vigorously promotes social development is independent ideological consciousness, and the highest stage of ideological consciousness in the independent development of the popular masses is socialist ideological consciousness.

It is beyond dispute that socialist society, which is developing with a high degree of revolutionary consciousness and creativity of the popular masses firmly equipped with one ideology—socialist ideology, is a society which has the greatest capacity for development.

If the working class party and the state correctly recognize that the basic driving force in the development of socialist society lies in unity and cooperation based on the popular masses' high ideological consciousness, and initially put forth the work to reform the people's ideological consciousness and put it into practice, then socialist society can achieve endless development.

Because they fail to perceive the fundamental superiority of socialist society, the renegades of socialism have ruined socialism. To conceal their true colors, they have stated that socialism is authoritarianism, like a military barracks, or of an administrative and command style.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has stated in his document that the renegades of socialism eliminated guidance of the socialist economy by the working-class party and state and introduced the capitalist market economy because they failed to perceive correctly the superiority of socialism, which is developing with the might of unity among the popular masses.

As the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has pointed out, the establishment of the socialist system creates the social and economic conditions for all members of society to unite and cooperate based on one ideology; however, unity and cooperation of the people cannot be achieved spontaneously. In order to strengthen the unity and cohesion of the entire society, education in socialist ideology must be improved among people. In the past, however, the remolding of people's ideological consciousness was neglected in the practice of socialism because of the failure to understand that the basic driving force of the development of socialist society lies in the unity and cooperation of the people based on a high degree of their ideological consciousness. In particular, there were tendencies to rouse people's enthusiasm for production by means of such economic levers as material incentives, seeking the driving force of the development of socialist economy in the economic factor of adapting relations in production to the character of the productive forces. As a matter of course, the lever of material incentives can be used in socialist society because it is transitional. However, this lever must be used on the basis of giving priority to education in socialist ideology. In other words, the principle must be maintained of putting the main stress on political and moral incentives and properly combining material incentives with them. If emphasis is put merely on material incentives instead, this will reduce people to egoists who seek only their own interests with the result that society will be in stagnation and the foundation of socialism will be destroyed. In those countries that gave up education in socialist ideology and encouraged egoism, socialist economic construction became stagnant. Taking advantage of this, they went so far as to deny the leadership of the working-class party and state over the socialist economy with the excuse of opposing an administrative and commanding style and introducing the capitalist market economy. The renegades of socialism ruined socialism, a grave incident, by removing guidance on the socialist economy by the working-class party and state.

Political leadership and centralist planned guidance of the economy is a basic task of the working-class party and state in socialist society. It is because they have the duty to look after the popular masses' lives. For the working-class party and state to give up their function of guiding the economy means shunning their responsibility of taking care of the livelihood of the popular masses. The way the party and state give guidance to the economy in socialist society may be different from one country to another according to their specific realities and the requirements of the developing revolution; however, they must on no account give up their guidance of the economy.

To fully display the superiority of the socialist economy, the working-class party and state should establish a principle on guidance and a method of guidance corresponding to the intrinsic nature of socialist society, instead of giving up their function of guiding the economy.

In our country, collective guidance by party committees is ensured, the mass line is implemented, political work is given precedence in all undertakings, and revolutionary work methods and a popular work style are established among the functionaries. Hence, the economy has been well managed and operated by the united strength of the popular masses in keeping with the intrinsic nature of socialist society.

However, some countries have eradicated the leadership of the party and state over the socialist economy with the excuse of opposing an administrative and command style.

The renegades of socialism have ruined socialism by being blind to the intrinsic superiority of socialism and by making the party and state give up the guidance of the socialist economy. Those renegades' slander of socialism as being of an administrative and command style is their scheme to hide such an act.

The renegades of socialism went so far as to revive capitalism by converting socialist ownership into private ownership, claiming that the administrative and command system relies on the absolute dominance of state ownership.

As the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has noted, socialist ownership, which consists of state and all-people ownership and cooperative ownership, is a social and economic base that enables the popular masses to take the position and play the role of masters of the state and society. It is clear that if socialist ownership is dissolved and converted into private ownership, privatized means of production will be concentrated, sooner or later, by a handful of exploiters, including privileged people and speculators.

Converting socialist ownership into private ownership means a revival of a system of exploitation. Not long after the scheme of privatization was put into effect in those countries in which socialism had collapsed millionaires appeared, whereas an absolute majority of the working people are suffering from unemployment and poverty.

As historical facts show, converting socialist ownership is nothing more than reviving the capitalist exploiting system. All vicious antisocialist propaganda which accuses socialism of being totalitarian, like a military barracks, and of an administrative and command style is nothing but a sophism of those who threw away the intrinsic demand of socialism, which is endlessly developing by the united strength of the popular masses.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il elucidated the fact that the intrinsic superiority of socialism is endlessly developing by the united strength of the popular masses. In this way, he laid bare the reactionary nature of all vicious propaganda which slanders socialism and provided an unshakable guide in persistently keeping up socialist construction.

All the party members and working people should have a correct understanding of the intrinsic superiority of socialism and firmly arm themselves with socialist ideology to boundlessly glorify the socialism of our own style to the end.

KCNA Reviews 3 May NODONG SINMUN

SK0305054793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0517 GMT 3 May 93

[Review of NODONG SINMUN]

[Text] Pyongyang, May 3 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today frontpages a photo-accompanied report that the great leader President Kim Il-song gave on-the-spot guidance to the June 3 cooperative farm, Onchon County, South Pyongan Province.

Appearing in the paper is a message of greetings sent by President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to president Lech Walesa on the national holiday of the Polish people.

The paper carries solidarity messages to President Kim Il-song from foreign party leaders supporting the "10-point programme of great unity of the whole nation for Reunification of the country" published by him and news that he received solidarity messages from foreign figures supporting it and foreign media gave publicity to the programme.

Seen in the paper are messages of greetings to the great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il from secretary of the C.C., the Communist Workers Party of Russia who is chairman of the executive committee of the "working Russia" movement on the occasion of May Day.

Carried in the paper are news of a national chuche idea seminar on the present time and the building of a new independent society held in Portugal on the occasion of the birthday of President Kim Il-song and the report delivered at the seminar. Appearing in the paper are messages of greetings sent to Comrade Kim Chong-il Supreme Commnder of the Korean People' Army, by foregn party leades upon his elction as chairman of the national defence commssion of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and soliarity messages to him from prty leaders of ifferent countres supporting the just cause of the Korean people.

According to the paper, the 7th volume of "for freedom and liberation of the people", reminiscences on undying feats of President Kim Il-song who led the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle to victory, came off the press.

The paper comes out with an article headlined "chuche idea is great banner leading socialist cause of our age to victory."

Foreign publications introduced Kimchongilia, reports the paper.

The paper carries news of spring farming at co-op farms.

Carried in the paper are joint statements of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Congolese Socialist Party and of the WPK and the people's front of workers, peasants and students of Peru.

The paper informs the readers that the secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland released its information denouncing the South Korean authorities and military for rendering the situation strained by staging military exercises against the North and that the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets staged a frantic bombing exercise aimed at a surprise strike at the North.

An article of the paper says that the South Korean workers' struggle for democracy and vital rights is just.

The South Korean news of the paper includes a report that the director of the youth and student department of the South Korean national democratic front hailed the inauguration of the South Korean federation of general student councils (Hanchongnyon).

Conveyed in the paper are world public voices condemning the demand of the International Atomic Energy Agency for a "special inspection" of the DPRK.

The paper carries reports that the Philippine president visited China and the Nepalese prime minister called on the people to achieve the nation's security and prosperity.

The paper reviews the current situation of South Africa.

South Korea

Ministry: North Fires at South Guard Post 2 May

SK0305064093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0614 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] Seoul, May 3 (YONHAP)—The North Korean side fired two shots at a guard post of the 28th Infantry Division of the South Korean Army on the central front line at 6:30 On Sunday afternoon, the Defense Ministry announced on Monday.

The Military Armistice Commission was looking into whether the shooting was intentional or accidental, the announcement said.

There was no return fire from the 28th Division, it added.

Seoul Reevaluating Plan To Relocate U.S. Army Base

SK0305061393 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 3 May 93 p 1

[Text] It was learned on 2 May that the ROK Government had been examining a plan to completely withhold the implementation of the Yongsan Project designed to relocate the U.S. military base in Yongsan.

The ROK and the United States signed a memorandum of agreement on the base relocation in June 1990 and has been preparing to move the ROK-U.S. Combined Forces Command, the United Nations Command, the Eighth U.S. Army Command, and other major command headquarters and support units to Osan and Pyongtaek in Kyonggi Province by 1997.

However, the government has reportedly been examining a plan to withhold the implementation of the project, given the fact that it will be difficult for it to pay the relocation cost of over several trillion won under the present economic situation and that the situation in the vicinity of the Korean peninsula has recently become grave due to North Korea's withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and other matters.

It was predicted when the memorandum of agreement was signed that the relocation would cost less money because the U.S. forces would withdraw from the ROK on a gradual basis. However, the second-phase withdrawal plan, which should have been implemented from this year, has been withheld. This also has reportedly affected the ROK's change of course.

Upon signing the memorandum of agreement, the government has operated the Yongsan Project Team since October 1990 and has been mapping out a comprehensive relocation plan with its U.S. counterpart. However, no progress has been made so far.

Government ministries concerned have been examining how long the implementation of the relocation plan would be withheld.

Upon mapping out its plan, the government is planning to discuss this matter in detail with the United States and working-level officials of the ROK and the United States reportedly have already started consultations.

The government is also examining a plan to soon remove the Osan area from the military facility protection area list.

An ROK Government official concerned said that the "Yongsan Project was hastily decided on because President No Tae-u had promised the base relocation during his election campaign," adding: "The relocation cost will be enormous, and the situation surrounding the Korean peninsula has changed. Therefore, the government is now reaching agreement to completely withhold the implementation of the relocation plan."

Paper: U.S. 'Exaggerating' Recent Rumors on DPRK

SK0305045993 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 3 May 93 p 21

[Article by correspondent Song Yong-sung]

[Text] If the recent foreign news and our intelligence authorities' "intelligence" about North Korea's situation are authentic, it can be said that something serious is happening in North Korea.

Recent foreign news reads as follows: "A Riot in Sinuiju," "Kim Il-song's Worsening Health," "The Closing of Sunan Airport in Pyongyang," "Movement of Large-Scale Troops Around Pyongyang Areas," and "The Border Clash Between North Korea and China, Killing Several Chinese Soldiers."

None of these reports, however, has been verified. Some of the reports are revealed to be false. Accordingly, there are many doubts whether the reports prevailing in our society are authentic.

The U.S. WASHINGTON POST reported that the border clash between North Korea and China took place on 28 April, killing several Chinese soldiers. The report was, however, officially denied by the "damaged" Chinese side. Wu Jianmin, spokesman of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, announced that "the report was a fabricated report."

In addition, judging from current Chinese-North Korean relations, the "border clash" which is meaningful politically and militarily could not have possibly taken place. This is expert viewpoint.

An accidental clash may take place on any two countries' borders. Thus, even though a shooting incident recently took place at the border area, this might be nothing but a shooting at the frequent Chinese smugglers, which was a "simple accident."

The rumor about the riot in Sinuiju, a border city, has been frequently spread. Officials of the Unification Board think that the outbreak of such a riot is not possible. Rather, we should pay due attention to North Korea's reaction to such a rumor. On 29 April, Pyongyang radio fervently denounced the South side, saying that "the rumor is sheer nonsense" and that "the rumor is one fabricated by the South Korean authorities fearing our single-hearted unity."

As for the rumor of Kim Il-song's worsening health, considering his old age, the rumor may be authentic. However, shortly after the rumor about his worsening health (28 April), President Kim held talks with a Thai delegation. Accordingly, the rumor proved to be false.

However, the rumor about the closing of Sunan airport, which spread in our country on 28 April, is evaluated as reliable information. It is said that Kalma airport in Wonsan and another airport were used instead of Sunan airport. The reason is not revealed.

In connection with the rumor of the movement of large-scale troops around Pyongyang, ROK Government officials analyzed that "this is related with the preparations for the 40th anniversary of the victory in the war." They said that "to mark the 40th anniversary of the Korean War, the movement of troops will be necessary for preparations."

Considering the Sinuiju riot and large-scale troop movements, we might think that a serious incident has taken place in North Korea. However, judging from the essence of the North Korean system and the general situation there, the rumor might be nothing but "interesting" guesswork.

Above all, why was the report about discord between North Korea and China carried in the U.S. "authority paper" at this point? Prior to this report, THE WASHINGTON TIMES had carried the U.S. Government's analytical article that North Korea's nuclear development has reached a "dangerous level."

An expert analyzed: "This report may be based on the U.S. intent to strengthen the U.S. stance by exaggerating a "problem" between North Korea and China, which has played an intermediary role, prior to the U.S.-North Korean high-level contact regarding North Korea's withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty."

Reportage on DPRK's Nuclear Treaty Withdrawal

Official: Seoul To Contact North on Issue

SK0305134093 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1200 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] The government is planning to hold an inter-Korean contact, preferably this month, to resolve the North Korean nuclear issue and to work on the stalemated inter-Korean relations.

It seems that a high-level inter-Korean contact aimed at improving overall inter-Korean relations, including a resolution to the North Korean nuclear issue, will be made after the U.S.-North Korean contact scheduled for next week. A high-ranking government official today said that since the U.S.-North Korean contact is to discuss fairly comprehensive problems and since the progress for the contact is turning out positive, it is desirable that our side hold an inter-Korean contact for the improvement of inter-Korean relations.

In this connection, a high-ranking official of the National Unification Board said that a direct inter-Korean contact will be possible before 10 June, the deadline for the effectuation of the withdrawal of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT], depending on the result of the U.S.-North Korean contact.

A high-ranking inter-Korean contact has been considered out of the question as the government thought it contradicts the atmosphere for international cooperation for resolving the issue. However, the poll conducted in April with experts on the reunification issue indicated that the majority of the participants in the survey thought the inter-Korean contact was as necessary as the international sanctions to resolve the issue.

Seventy-two percent of the poll participants said that North Korea will return to the NPT, and over half of the participants said that North Korea will accede to the special inspections of the two unreported sites in Yongbyon. As for the possibility of reunification by the end of this century, over half of the participants answered affirmatively, but about 80 percent noted that the reunification formula calling for a Korean nation's commonwealth should be improved or completely altered.

Seoul To Urge Tougher NPT Inspections

SK0305063693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0612 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] Seoul, May 3 (YONHAP)—South Korea will urge the 154 other members of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) to strengthen the treaty's inspection regime to more effectively discover and guard against covert nuclear development when they meet to discuss its extension next week, the Foreign Ministry said Monday.

The NPT preparatory committee (Prepcom) meets in New York on May 10-14 to negotiate the future of the treaty, which expires in 1995.

Although the Prepcom meetings are intended to decide on administrative affairs such as selection of a chairman, voting procedure and budget, they regularly leave room in the agenda for "other related matters," Ministry officials said.

NPT members may decide to table North Korea's withdrawal from the treaty, they said.

North Korea became the first country in the NPT's 23-year history to try to leave the pact when it announced its departure March 12. The withdrawal becomes final June 12, after the three-month mandatory waiting period.

NPT signatories meet every five years to renew the treaty. The meeting in 1995 will have to decide to extend the npt indefinitely, for an additional fixed period, or to renew it every set period.

Seoul has not yet decided which method to opt for, but it will choose the best way to strengthen the loose authority of the NPT and give the treaty more inspection powers, officials said.

North Korea, despite its announced departure, has said U.N. mission chief Pak Kil-yon will lead its delegation to the meeting.

TV: DPRK Group To Attend NPT Meeting

SK0205131993 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1200 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] North Korea, which has not attended any of the nuclear-related meetings since it declared its withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT], abruptly informed the United Nations that it will attend the NPT preparatory meeting scheduled to begin 10 May.

At the end of April North Korea informed the United Nations that it will send a delegation led by Pak Kil-yon, ambassador to the United Nations, to the NPT preparatory meeting in New York.

Informing the United Nations of its intention to attend the meeting, North Korea did not express a clear intention to return to the NPT. However, this recent decision represents a change from its previous position and is interpreted as an indirect expression of its intent to return to the NPT.

The meeting scheduled for 10 May is a full-fledged working meeting of the NPT member states to form a preparatory committee to discuss the revision of the NPT that is expected in 1995. North Korea, which declared its withdrawal from the treaty, was not expected to attend the meeting. Our government interprets North Korea's decision to attend the meeting as a positive change in attitude and thinks that this could lead to North Korea's declaration to return to the NPT. The government, therefore, began to formulate appropriate measures today, such as dispatching a high-ranking official to the United States.

The government has also begun to formulate measures to inform the NPT member states of the need for the countries concerned to prevent North Korea from making the meeting its propaganda site to strengthen its position, stressing that North Korea should receive special inspections as well.

IAEA Team May Visit DPRK 'Next Week'

SK0105004093 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 1 May 93 p 1

[Text] International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] Spokesman David Kidd said on 30 April that an IAEA inspection team is expected to resume its nuclear inspection of North Korea next week.

The spokesman said that the inspection team's activities would likely be limited to checking the operability of the cameras and other inspection equipment installed in the North Korean nuclear facilities as well as changing film. He stressed: Even though North Korea has allowed the IAEA inspection team to visit, it does not mean that "the North Korean nuclear issue has found a decisive turning point for its resolution."

He said that "a special nuclear inspection would not be conducted."

President Holds Security Meeting on Issue

SK0305082093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0732 GMT 3 May 93

["Backgrounder" by Cho Se-hyon]

[Text] Seoul, May 3 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam convened a meeting of national security-related cabinet ministers Monday [3 May] as time was approaching fast for the first test of whether the North Korean nuclear issue can be resolved peacefully.

The United Nations Security Council is expected to adopt its first resolution this week to urge North Korea to retract its decision to withdraw from the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT].

Also this week, the United States and North Korea are scheduled to resume their official contact, probably in Beijing, to take up the same problem, among other issues.

At Monday's meeting, President Kim and his brain trust were said to have discussed diplomatic measures that can be pursued in stages to help solve the North Korean nuclear issue peacefully. Sources said they also talked about recent political and military developments in the North.

The South Korean Government leaders specifically discussed what effect the reports of military movement in the Pyongyang area and of alleged rioting in the city of Shinuiju on the Chinese border will have on the U.N. Security Council, according to the sources.

It is necessary for South Korean leaders to be kept abreast of developments in the North if they are to anticipate the next North Korean move with regard to inspection of its nuclear facilities by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the NPT withdrawal.

The South Korean Government expects—or rather hopes—to see North Korea voluntarily reverse its decision to withdraw from the NPT before its decision takes effect June 12. It also hopes that North Korea will accept not only IAEA inspections but also mutual and simultaneous inspections with the South.

If North Korea insists on leaving the NPT and refusing to allow outside inspections, and if there are U.N. economic and possibly military sanctions against it, there is a strong possibility that a cornered North Korean leadership could resort to a desperate and reckless action.

North Korea is currently doing its utmost for a smooth transfer of power from President Kim Il-song to his son and heir, Chong-il. For that purpose, North Korea could be feeling the need to create tension in the outside world.

North Korea's Foreign Ministry has recently issued statements, for both internal and external consumption, warning repeatedly that North Korea will have to take "a self-defensive measure" if the world community continues exerting pressure on Pyongyang.

Under the circumstances, South Korean Government leaders could not but be sensitive about "unusual movements" that have taken place or are in progress in the North. They are doubly significant since the possibility of United Nations military sanctions against North Korea in several months cannot be ruled out.

"Around April 25, North Korea mobilized an armored army corps equipped with tanks and was holding an exercise," a South Korean Government official said, requesting anonymity. "Government officials are keeping a close watch on the North Korean military movements."

Other government officials said they have received information from residents in Chinese cities bordering North Korea and through other channels that there was "a large riot or demonstration" in Shinuiju on the estuary of the Yalu River.

"Details are not known, but that there was rioting appears to be true," said another official, asking that his name be withheld.

On the reported troop movement and riots, the Foreign Ministry and Chongwadae said they could not confirm that "there were organized and unusual activities," thus neither confirming nor denying the two reports.

Some analysts say it is highly possible North Korea was training the armed corps for air or commando raids against its nuclear facilities in Yongbyon, north of Pyongyang, as part of United Nations military sanctions.

In any event, the South Korean Government is employing all diplomatic and other means not to irritate Pyongyang or force it to take desperate and irrational action as a last resort.

The government took pains recently to dampen speculation that there had been troop movements or rioting.

"There is nothing in the way of internal developments in North Korea that deserve any attention," the government said.

In line with this statement, Monday's meeting, at least on the surface was said to have reaffirmed the government position that it will do its best to help resolve the North Korean nuclear issue peacefully. But behind the scene, it is safe to assume that the government was preparing for possible North Korean provocation.

DPRK Seeks To Join International Development Bank

SK0205095993 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 2 May 93 p 6

[Text] North Korea has recently said that it will join the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development [IBRD].

The IBRD informed the ROK Finance Ministry that the North Korean ambassador to Thailand met with IBRD officials in Bangkok at a banquet of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at the end of March. He expressed interest in joining the IBRD and asked for information on the qualifications for joining.

A relevant government official said on 1 May: ROK's Won Pong- hui, acting director of the IBRD, has given the ROK's position to the IBRD that "before reviewing the admission of North Korea to the IBRD, discussions with the ROK Government must be held."

Last May, North Korea said it would like to join the Asian Development Bank [ADB] and asked for information.

A relevant government official said it remains to be seen if North Korea really wants to join the IBRD, because it must reveal all of its relevant economic documents to the world bank.

The ROK Government predicts that North Korea wants to enter the IBRD and ADB to overcome its economic crisis, hoping to receive long-term low interest development funds from them.

'Source': U.S. President Clinton To Visit 9 Jul

SK0205014793 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 2 May 93 p 1

[Text] U.S. President Clinton will visit the ROK on 9 July. The two countries of the ROK and the United States recently held concentrated negotiations on President Clinton's ROK visit and made final agreements in principle for him to visit the ROK. Seoul's diplomatic source revealed on 1 May that discussions on the period of his stay in the ROK and detailed schedule are currently under way.

It was learned that the governments of the two countries will jointly announce this soon. Before his ROK visit, President Clinton will be participating in the summit meeting of the group of seven big powers (G7) in Tokyo from 7 to 9 July. The source revealed that he plans to visit the ROK on his way back to the United States for one night and two days.

It will be the first summit meeting between the new governments of the ROK and the United States which set sail this year. They will likely examine the overall situation of the Northeast Asian region including North Korea's nuclear issue and hold discussions on tasks of future security cooperation. The two countries also plan to hold intense negotiations on ways to strengthen economic cooperation. It seems that discussions will be held on ways to put into practice the expansion and balance of trade between the two countries.

Considering the ROK is not the only country President Clinton will visit and that the new ROK Government is making it a principle to simplify protocol procedures, his visit will not be a state visit or an official visit but a working visit. Therefore, discussions are under way to exclude various welcoming ceremonies.

A government source revealed on 1 May that if this is the case, there is the high possibility that an official welcoming ceremony at Chongwadae [presidential residence and offices] and a dinner may be excluded.

This official assessed: "It is unprecedented for a U.S. President to visit the ROK in the form of a working visit."

Officials: PRC Foreign Minister To Visit 'Around May 25'

SK0305022893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0219 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] Seoul, May 3 (YONHAP)—Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen is expected in Seoul around May 25 for talks strategically timed to coincide with the middle of final efforts to bring North Korea back to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), officials said Monday.

Qian is to come for a three-night visit and meet with Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu.

Unless North Korea clearly indicated before his visit that it would return to the NPT and submit to international nuclear inspections, the two countries would seek joint steps to counter Pyongyang's secretive nuclear program and discuss the U.N. Security Council's second resolution on North Korea, due around then, the officials said.

Pyongyang announced it was leaving the NPT in March. The withdrawal becomes final on June 12, unless North Korea rescinds it.

Seoul invited Qian in January to visit between late May and early June, and the officials cautiously attach significance to the fact that the Chinese foreign minister chose to come in late May.

According to a sketchy timetable, the U.N. Security Council is likely to adopt a resolution as early as this week demanding North Korea rejoin the NPT and comply with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) demands to inspect two suspected facilities.

The United States is expected to hold a direct high-level contact with North Korea after the resolution is passed to break the deadlock.

Seoul officials say the security council will move for a second resolution in early June that may contain an economic embargo on North Korea.

Qian will be the first Chinese official to pay respects at the South Korean national cemetery, where South Korean soldiers killed during the Korean war are buried. China fought on North Korea's side during the 1950-1953 fratricidal war.

Seoul To Strengthen Ties With U.S. in Observing North

SK0105015793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0148 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] Seoul, May 1 (YONHAP)—South Korea has strengthened its cooperation with the United States and other countries to detect warning signs in North Korea, an informed government source said Saturday.

Recent reports of a military clash on the North Korea-China border, Kim Il-song's failing health and closure of the Pyongyang airport were mostly untrue, the source said.

The government had confirmed that the North Korean leader was in good health, he said.

"Although these reports were unfounded, the government feels pressed to keep a close watch on North Korean affairs because of the volatility stemming from Pyongyang's economic plight and international pressure," he said.

"We are cooperating with the United States and other possible sources to heighten vigilance on North Korea."

Seoul was able to confirm the deployment of a large number of tanks along the North Korean border, and found it was a one-time, routine event commemorating military foundation day April 25, according to the source.

The airport closure was true, but it was temporary and most likely for the departure of Cambodian leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk, he said.

Seoul To Continue Crackdown on IPR Violators

SK0105070093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0554 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] Seoul, May 1 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government has decided to keep cracking down on those people who are stealing foreign intellectual property, and promote measures to prevent such thefts, the Economic Planning Board [EPB] said Saturday.

EPB officials said the decision was made after the U.S. government kept Korea on its Priority Watch List (PWL) rather than designating it a Priority Foreign Country (PFC) on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR).

The officials said they were relieved to learn that Washington had not designated Korea a PFC.

Nevertheless, the U.S. decision to keep Korea on the PWL was an indication that the United States intends to keep watching the government's attitude toward the protection of foreign intellectual property in this country, they said.

As a result, the government will continue to try and root out piracy of such foreign products as music discs and videos, while providing incentives for the development of indigenous technology, the officials said.

It has also decided to promote reforms and improvement in the nation's copyright law, computer program protection law, customs law and laws and regulations aimed at protection intellectual property, the officials said.

Samsung Buys U.S. Microwave Semiconductor Company

SK0305081693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0635 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] Seoul, May 3 (YONHAP)—Samsung Electronics Co. said Monday [3 May] that it has acquired Harris Microwave Semiconductor [HMS] Co., a U.S. company from California's Silicon Valley on the cutting edge of semiconductor technology.

HMS of Palo Alto, Calif., was a frontrunning company in the semiconductor industry with state-of-the-art technology for designing, assembling and inspecting chemical compound computer chips, a Samsung spokesman said.

The gallium arsenide chips are six times faster than silicon wafers and they are expected to be essential in the 21st century, when mobile, satellite, and personal computer telecommunications will become popular, because of their characteristics of superhigh frequency, low power consumption, and low noise.

Samsung has been seeking to advance into the niche of compound chips to upgrade its cordless telecommunications sector, and its acquisition of HMS was a cornerstone of this strategy, the spokesman said.

Samsung recently agreed to build a joint-venture semiconductor plant in Portugal with Texas Instruments, and made a capital and technology tie-up with Toshiba of Japan in the flash memory chip field.

It hopes to be one of the world's top five manufacturers of electronics through continuous technology tie-ups, the spokesman said.

Government To Trim Spending by 1,600 Billion Won

SK0105055293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0502 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] Seoul, May 1 (YONHAP)—The government will trim spending by about 1,600 billion won this year and use most of that money to help financially hard-pressed small companies, deputy prime minister Yi Kyong-sik reported to President Kim Yong-sam and economic cabinet ministers on Saturday.

The government wanted to set an example by sharing the pain of building a "new economy," he told the meeting at the Central Public Officials Training Institute.

Yi said the planned cuts would total 1,589.7 billion won—508.5 billion won to be saved by central government offices, 529.4 billion won by provincial administrations, and 551.8 billion won by public enterprises.

The presidential office would chip in 1.5 billion won of its budget of 23.4 billion won, the Agency for National Security Planning, 20 billion won out of 233.3 billion won, and the Defense Ministry, 143 billion won from its 9,215.4 billion won budget, he said.

The money would be used to buy goods made by small companies, finance projects to improve the structure of small firms, subsidize the sale of farm implements at half price, and pay for rural community projects, Yi said.

The Korea Land Development Corp. would try to lower the price of residential land and the Korea National Housing Corp. would freeze the prices of apartments for a year, the leaders of the two agencies said.

President Kim said that if "pain-sharing" was to succeed, all sectors of the country should feel the pain equally.

"If we want to make pain-sharing a success, we must make the people believe pain-sharing will be rewarded," he said.

The government should implant a belief in price stability and convince people that income had to be earned, he said.

Kim said businessmen could share the pain through keeping prices down by raising productivity.

"Businessmen should set a good example of frugality and conservation, and share the pain with their workers by showing them deep affection," he said.

He said the pain of public officials would surely be rewarded.

"I have already told relevant offices to work out substantial measures to improve the treatment of public officials," Kim said.

External Debt Grows for First Time in Eight Years

SK0305024493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0056 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] Seoul, May 3 (YONHAP)—South Korea's total external debt rose to 42.67 billion U.S. dollars in February, reversing a steady eight-year slide, the Bank of Korea said Monday [3 May].

The debt was 110 million dollars more than the 42.56 billion dollars last year-end and 170 million dollars more than the 42.5 billion dollars in January, a central bank spokesman said.

Total external debt had been declining since marking 46.8 billion dollars in 1985.

While long-term debt shrank 60 million dollars in January and 110 million dollars in February to 24.05 billion dollars, off 170 million dollars from December, short-term debt surged 280 million dollars to 18.62 billion dollars.

The continuing fall in long-term debt shows that companies did not regain their investment spirit and are not spending much on facility imports, the official said.

But the short-term figures have risen since January, when approval for short-term credit trading and advances for exports expanded.

Business investment is likely to rise under the "100-day plan for a new economy," which will increase external debt, he said.

Thanks to a continuous inflow of foreign funds to the stock market, Korea's overseas assets grew 300 million dollars to 32 billion dollars in February from 31.7 billion dollars last year-end.

Net debt (gross debt minus overseas assets) was off 190 million dollars at 10.67 billion dollars from 10.86 billion dollars.

Exports Increase, Trade Deficit Decreases in Apr

SK0305092893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0827 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] Seoul, May 3 (YONHAP)—Exports rose in April for the third straight month, climbing 6.3 percent over a year earlier and trimming the trade deficit, the Trade, Industry and Resources Ministry said Monday [3 May].

Exports reached 6.76 billion U.S. dollars while imports rose 0.3 percent to 6.85 billion dollars on a customs clearance basis, a ministry spokesman said.

The trade deficit shrank by 376 million dollars from April 1992 to 94 million dollars.

Exports had been on a downward trend from November last year until March.

Chemical exports increased due to the strong yen and heavy buying in the Middle East, but light industrial exports continued to slide.

Exports to the United States increased for the third month in a row but those to Japan and the European Community continued to remain in the doldrums.

Electronic Goods Losing Market Share in Japan

SK0305082493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0750 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] Seoul, May 3 (YONHAP)—South Korean home electronic products are losing market share in Japan to goods from China or the ASEAN (the Association of Southeast Asian Nations).

Korea sold Japan 33.12 million yen of eight main items—color televisions, video cassette recorders, radio cassette players, stereos, refrigerators, washing machines, electronic ranges and air conditioners—in 1990, taking 33.6 percent of the import market. This compares with 27.8 percent for ASEAN and 3.6 percent for China.

In 1991, the figures were down to 33.03 million yen and 21.6 percent, and in January-October last year slid to 22.94 million yen and 21.4 percent.

Meanwhile, China jumped to 12.55 million yen in the 10 months and 11.7 percent, more than three-fold its performance in 1990.

In the same period of 1992, ASEAN's exports reached 56.5 million yen and 52.7 percent, nearly two-fold the 1990 level.

Korea's exports of refrigerators, electronic ranges, air conditioners and video recorders dropped 64.2 percent, 45.5 percent, 32.8 percent and 23.7 percent, respectively. Exports of all eight items have fallen for the last three years.

China's exports of color televisions grew 12 times, radio cassettes, 36.6 percent, refrigerators, 30.3 percent, and stereos, 17.9 percent. No Chinese exports declined.

ASEAN exports of color televisions, video recorders and washing machines grew five-fold, 119-fold and seven-fold, respectively.

Agency: Mail of 481 Citizens Kept Under Surveillance

SK0305073993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0604 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] Seoul, May 3 (YONHAP)—The Agency for National Security Planning (NSP) said Monday [3 May] that the Postal Service Research Institute had the mail of 481 people under special surveillance as of the end of April.

It said the institute found 542,360 "impure and seditious" letters and literature last year, and it referred 539,562 of them to the spy agency.

The NSP made the information public in a written reply to Rep. Yi Yun-su of the main opposition Democratic Party, who had requested information on mail intercepts by the agency.

The number of people whose mail is read by the NSP as part of its job to combat espionage by North Korea and international crime has risen from 382 in 1990 and 319 in 1991 to 394 in 1992 and 481 on Friday.

Mail intercepts had led to the arrest in February 1986 of Prof. Yi Pyong-sul of Seoul National University, the uncovering of a secret plan of a Korean student in Japan, identified as Paek Un-hae, to make an authorized visit to North Korea and the arrests of a Pakistani forger and a Korean connected with an international drug trafficking ring, the NSP said.

The agency said it would continue reading people's mail, but was considering a committee for scrupulous selection of targets for surveillance.

Navy To Deploy Own Submarines

SK0305142593 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 3 May 93 p 5

[Text] Our Navy will be equipped with submarines.

Our Navy will deploy a 1,400-ton class submarine, the Changbogo, for combat purposes toward the end of this month. The submarine can fire antiship missiles and torpedoes that will navigate underwater at an average speed of 14 knots per hour. It has far better firepower and underwater cruising capability than the North Korean W- and R-class submarines. Equipped with modern facilities, only three-fifths of the number of the North Korean submarine crewmen is necessary to man our submarine. Our Navy is expected to introduce seven of these submarines by 1998 and is planning to introduce medium-size submarines capable of carrying surface-to-ground, surface-to-air missiles thereafter.

Our Navy has tried to keep up with the underwater combat capability of North Korea, which has 25 submarines, by augmenting destroyers. We were unable to have submarines not only because of the enormous expense involved in building and operating submarines, but because the United States restrained our Navy from having them, considering them to be "offensive" weapons.

However, our government persuaded the United States that we could not keep maintaining a defensive posture against the North Korean threat and that we could stop the enemy's provocation only when we had retaliatory combat capability, and began the submarine project in 1982. When the project began, the West German 209-type and the French Agosta-class competed, but the Navy decided to purchase the West German HDW's 1,400 ton-class submarine. The decision was made based on German technology which had developed submarines for a long time and because of Germany's promise to transfer technology to our side.

The submarine Changbogo cost 150 billion won, 20 billion won more than the original estimate. This resulted in a controversy during the parliamentary investigation of state affairs over the possibility of irregularities involving political fund donations. The government explained that the over-expenditure was unavoidable owing to the devaluation of won and the addition of arms capability. The Navy is planning to commission the Yi Chon, the submarine which was launched in November last year, soon after the deployment of the Changbogo. The deployment of a submarine for combat purposes by our Navy—which is feeling depressed about the arrest of the former Navy chief of staff over the personnel action scandal that led to the reprimand and arrest of four other Navy admirals—might bring forth a turning point for the refreshment of the depressed atmosphere.

Our Navy's possession of offensive submarines is the expression of its resolute will not to fall victim to the North Korean provocation. A fundamental upturn will be brought about for the naval combat capability of our Navy which had to cope with North Korea's 25 submarines with only destroyers. If we equip our Navy with seven modern submarines by 1997, we will not have to worry about the North Korean submarines in view of the performance and mobility of our submarines.

Article Views Scrutiny of Military Projects

SK0105134093 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 26 Apr 93 p 2

[Article by Kim Chae-hong: "Suspicions of Dirty Money Concealed in Force Improvement Plan"]

[Text] Ever since word began to circulate that investigating authorities were to audit the Yulgok project, a project that involves the import of expensive weaponry, as well as the domestic defense industry, high-level Ministry of National Defense [MND] officials have become extremely nervous.

Although Defense Minister Choe Yong-hae has guided military reform since the advent of the new government, he has made no mention whatsoever of the Yulgok project. Then suddenly, like an ambush, forces outside the military came charging. It looked as if preparations were being made for major surgery on the military's largest project without any regard for Defense Minister Choe or the intentions of the MND.

There have been many recent instances of promotion fraud in connection with improprieties and the unjust accumulation of assets. Yet it is commonly known that the scale of commissions and lobbying funds in the logistics and defense industries field have been astronomical as well. Military projects also involve issues that extend beyond the accumulation of personal wealth by military leaders. There is a continuing suspicion that such projects have served as a black market for political funds at the state leadership level.

Since the defense industry is surrounded by the formidable fence known as the protection of military secrets, many point out that it is the perfect place for the transfer of dirty monies.

Methods by which large amounts of capital flowed back and forth in the weapons import process became widely known during the Fifth Republic.

In December 1987 the MND concluded a contract for the purchase of six CH47D helicopters from the U.S. Boeing Corporation. The price per helicopter offered by the domestic arms intermediary broker at first was $12.35 million. The total cost would have been $74.1 million.

Chongwadae then instructed the Defense Security Command [DSC] to determine the amount of the brokers' commission from Boeing. The amount was $3.73 million.

The brokers, composed of former military officers and DSC officials, are known to have offered $2 million as a defense donation, perhaps because they were suspicious of an investigation by Chongwadae or because they felt there would be a problem in accepting the entire commission.

The 5 percent commission on total sales that the brokers were to receive was consistent with that customarily awarded to brokers in the international weapons market. Yet these brokers apparently figured that the regime showed excessive interest in whether they pocketed the entire amount, and regarded this donation as an "image investment" that would later show its returns in the defense industry field.

Yet in spite of the brokers' offer, someone in the government stated that they would not receive the defense donation. Also, an official of the weapons brokerage group stated that the entire amount of the commission must be put into the brokers' bank account.

With defense donations being public funds, they are readily visible. Thus someone thought of giving the entire commission to the broker, taking the dirty money out of that amount, and converting that money into political funds. When word of this was leaked outside the military, Chongwadae instructed that rather than receiving the $2 million, the price of the helicopters should be cut by that amount. Thus the per-unit cost for the helicopters dropped from $12.35 million to $12 million.

As seen from this example, it would be very simple to launder millions or billions of won of dirty money through such a massive weapons import budget.

Chongwadae's decision to rid itself of this annoying problem is seen as resulting from the outbreak the previous year in 1986 of the F-20 lobbying scandal.

Although a large amount of money changed hands in the F-20 incident, as soon as it was decided that the F-20 would not be acquired, Northrup claimed that they had been defrauded. When they took their appeal to the International Arbitration Court in Paris, this incident became known to the entire world.

The Korean agent who received the lobbying fees from Northrup at the time was former Chief of the Presidential Security Service Pak Chong-kyu, a person with great influence in the Fifth Republic.

One politician who pursued this case revealed that in August 1984 Northrop deposited $6.25 million in lobbying fees (roughly 4.46 billion won at the time) into a false bank account in Hong Kong in his daughter's name.

Although the Fifth Republic had intended to purchase the F-20 through Pak, when problems began to emerge, such as the October 1984 crash during a test flight at Suwon Air Base, the plan was canceled. Northrup then attempted to recover its lobbying fees; however, it lost its case in the International Arbitration Court.

Commissions for weapons brokers or lobbying fees paid to politicians are eventually incorporated into the cost of the weapon. Thus, in the end, they consume portions of the defense budget.

The defense budget, laced as it is with such "icing," accounts for 26 percent of the government's total budget. Of this, roughly 34 percent goes toward defense products.

The 1993 national defense budget is 9.2154 trillion won, of which 3.1 trillion won is for weapons imports and defense products. The greater portion of this is for continuing programs that were contracted during the Fifth and Sixth Republics. New projects amount to only 3 percent of this amount. In other words, the bulk of the Yulgok program has already been contracted, and the Force Improvement Plan costs that are included in each year's defense budget are being used to pay for those areas.

The largest programs among the Yulgok project include the Navy's 3,100-ton destroyer project (KDX) and the 1,200-ton submarine technology acquisition and production project. The Air Force's next-generation fighter project (KFP) and the Army's Korean-model K-1 tank project are also under way as part of the Yulgok project. There is widespread talk about all four of these projects.

In November 1987, toward the end of the Fifth Republic, Daewoo Shipbuilding was selected as the prime company to produce the ship's body. There was talk around the military that President Chon Tu-hwan's signature confirming the selection of Daewoo as the major company in this project, a signature given immediately after the presidential election was publicly announced, was connected with the outflow of election funds.

Early in the Fifth Republic, a contract was signed for production of submarines with technology acquired from Germany. At the time, rumors circulated that Chon Kyong-hwan [President Chon's brother] visited the German company that was to provide the technology. In November 1992 the first submarine under this project, the Yi Chon-ham, had its launching ceremony in Chinhae and is currently in dry-dock.

One source familiar with the Yulgok project stated that in October 1992, then-Defense Minister Choe Se-chang went to the Chongwadae to obtain a signature on a defense project involving large amounts of money but was refused. He then attempted to conclude a contract on several bridging and recovery tanks that cost more than 2 billion won each. Chongwadae, since it was near the end of the regime, was cautious to avoid providing any incidents that would emerge in future Sixth Republic hearings. The DSC, in accordance with "Chongwadae instructions for a background investigation," are known to have investigated officials at the MND concerned with defense products.

Elements at the MND such as the Force Improvement Plan Committee have guided defense product-related issues. The vice defense minister is in charge in this area. The vice minister at the time was current Defense Minister Kwon Yong-hae.

Around the time President Kim was preparing to form his cabinet, DSC Commander So Wan-sik attempted to make several reports of some type to the president. The contents of these reports concerned defense-product work conducted by Vice Minister Kwon.

After serving as the support commander for the 1988 Olympics toward the beginning of the Sixth Republic, Defense Minister Kwon retired and became director of the MND Plans and Management Office. Two years later he was promoted to vice minister, where he served for over two years before rising to the position of minister.

These facts show that Minister Kwon is well aware of the details of the Yulgok project, much more so than anyone else. MND officials cognizant of this fact are keeping their mouths tightly sealed ever since talk of irregularities concerning the Yulgok project began to emerge.

In addition, there are many who call for the truth behind other Yulgok-related issues remaining from the Sixth Republic. This includes the selection of the F-18 aircraft for the KFP and the later change to the F-16, as well as the trial-and-error acquisition process for the fire control devices for the K-1 tank. Suspicions over punishment handed to the large conglomerates involved in the K- 1 tank debacle were even raised during the National Assembly's inspection of government affairs.

In parliamentary inspections held in October 1992, the MND revealed that during a five-year period from 1988 to September 1992 the total amount spent on weapons imports was 5.2743 trillion won. In this process, the amount of commissions that went to domestic weapons intermediary brokers was 31.6 billion won. This amount, however, was confirmed to consist only of legitimate commissions that were not dirty money.

With the defense budget being so massive, and because it is not made public due to military secrecy, there are many portions of the budget that are consumed acquiring weapons at unfair prices. Therefore, the common perception is that there is a great opportunity for dirty money to be hidden here.

What will be interesting is to see if such suspicions will eventually be examined within the context of extirpating the past.

Military Official Views Weapons Procurement Problems

SK0205023493 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 28 Apr 93 p 4

[Interview with Chi Man-won, reserve Navy captain and graduate from U.S. Naval Academy, by correspondent Song Yong-sung—date and place not given; first four paragraphs are correspondent's introduction]

[Text] It is becoming steadily apparent that there are extraordinary contradictions within state-level projects aimed at the modernization of our armed forces. These projects have consistently accounted for one-third of our defense budget over the past 20 years.

The core of the military modernization program, named the Yulgok Project, involves the import of weapons from the United States. Military experts point out that with the weapons acquisition process being conducted so unprofessionally, there are enormous losses suffered as far as the state budget goes. There is also a strong suspicion of improprieties within the military concerning weapons acquisition.

Auditors commenced a special inspection of the Yulgok Project on 27 April 1993. However, not only does such an undertaking require a special amount of specialized knowledge, but due to inherent structural problems some believe that it would be difficult to count on the anticipated results.

Dr. Chi Man-won (reserve navy captain) graduated in Class 22 from the Naval Academy. Since receiving his doctorate in business administration from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School, he has been active as a military analyst. Dr. Chi listed as problem areas in weapons acquisition the shortage of bargaining ability and specialized expertise, improprieties among a portion of high-ranking government officials, and a structure that is dependent solely on the United States.

[Song Yong-sung] What types of weapons or equipment does the ROK Armed Forces currently import from the United States?

[Chi Man-won] One could say virtually all. From fighter aircraft, guided missiles, tanks, radar, and optical equipment all the way to engineer shovels used for digging, there is no end to it.

[Song] If so, how much is paid out on an annual basis for the import of these weapons from the United States?

[Chi] Around $2 billion annually flows to the United States. This includes $1.5 billion for weapons acquisitions and $500 million for repair parts. The problem is that our force capabilities are not improving to the same degree that these enormous funds are being expended. This is because there is no effective weapons imports taking place. For example, there even was one case when a radar project in which $250 million was spent on importing radars did not result in even $25 worth of value.

[Song] How could something like that have happened?

[Chi] First is the fact that the bargaining ability of our Ministry of National Defense [MND] is atrocious. Although it is true that the United States often puts pressure on Korea, this is simply because Korea is that incompetent. The negotiating team from the MND is totally void not only of people who can speak English freely and fluently but also who have a professional knowledge of weapons systems or electronic equipment. Is not electronics equipment the core of modern weaponry? Lacking any logic or bargaining skills, our negotiators become completely perplexed by the data provided by their counterparts.

[Song] Is this why Korea is always being overcharged?

[Chi] That is correct. There are innumerable incidents of overcharging. Between 1978 and 1985 a large-scale radar installation project was carried out within the Air Force and Anti-Air Artillery [AAA] units. At that time, this project accounted for 8 percent of the total defense budget. It was even termed an "unparalleled massive project." The year following the activation of radar acquired under this project carried out by the Hughes Corporation, three Chinese aircraft came into Korean air space without being acquired by the radar. Even in the case of the K-1 Tank, some 100 tanks sat for over a year in open-air storage due to defects in the gunner's sighting device.

[Song] What about the next-generation fighter project (KFP)?

[Chi] This also is a typical example. The F-16 and the F-18 are basically different aircraft. The F-18 is a carrier-based aircraft while the F-16 is a purely air force aircraft. From the very beginning when our Air Force selected the F-18, they were pursuing a preposterously absurd policy. The price was two times as great as the F-16. A strong lobbying campaign was a factor in the selection. Thus it is erroneous to state that it was General Dynamics, the producer of the F-16, that lobbied so strongly. Rather, I believe it was McDonnell Douglas that lobbied more.

[Song] What is the role of an agent in weapons imports?

[Chi] Although there are no problems when it comes to direct sales (FMS) between Korea and the United States, in commercial transactions the lobbying directed toward the military is enormous. Lobbyists take advantage of the fact that the project teams in the military lack the professional expertise, flood them with data, give them lobbying funds, and pursue their interests. This is the origin of improprieties.

[Song] What are possible measures to counter these overpriced weapons imports?

[Chi] An elite group of individuals with technical expertise must be assembled, trained in employment concepts, and used to form a new negotiating team either at the MND or the Joint Chiefs of Staff. There is then a need to eliminate opportunities for weapons agents to become involved. Finally, it is urgent to diversify sources of weapons from the United States to other countries such as France, Italy, and Israel.

[Song] People are expecting results from the Board of Audit and Inspection's audit of the Yulgok Project.

[Chi] If they look at the system itself, I do not know. But with only a fragmentary approach it will be difficult to reveal any structural problems.

Burma

Than Shwe Sends Workers Day Message

BK0105141193 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 0130 GMT 1 May 93

[Workers Day message from Senior General Than Shwe, chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council, on 1 May; place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] To all esteemed workers: Today, 1 May, is Workers Day which is being observed in honor of mental and physical workers of the entire Union of Myanmar [Burma]. I send this message to the entire force of workers, greeting you with love and respect on this auspicious day.

Mental and physical workers are one of the basic forces in bringing about the progress and development of the nation since they are fulfilling needs for food, clothing, and shelter as well as the social need of all the people residing in the Union. The life of the workers who possess physical strength, mental ability, and goodwill as their capital investment and who meet the needs of the state is a noble one.

Physical and mental workers, with their love for the country and patriotism traditionally inherent in them, joined hands with national people in the movement against imperialists just as the peasants did. The workers had bitter experiences under the colonialist government and the fascist government which exploited and oppressed them while they faced the lowest standard of living. Much blood, sweat, and lives of many physical and mental workers were lost under the occupation of the imperialists and fascists, which can be seen from historical documents. In the same way, there had been exploitation and looting of national resources, such as teak and pyinkadoe [a kind of hard wood], by the imperialist companies.

While an oilfield worker earned an average daily wage of 1 kyat and 2 annas, the salaries of the colonialists themselves ranged from kyat 5,000 to 8,000. Moreover, the BOC [Burma Oil Company] of the colonialists made an annual profit between 90 million kyat and 101 million kyat while payment to all company workers totalled only 7 million kyat. Anticolonialist consciousness rose among the workers as a result of the suppression, exploitation, and discrimination by the colonialist government. This consciousness played an important role in the movement against the colonialists.

Presently, endeavors for development in various economic and social fields are being carried out incessently under the leadership of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC]. At such a time, physical and mental workers, who constitute one of the basic forces of the state, are required to make endeavors energetically, unitedly, and willingly. They must also show their untiring and correct goodwill and attitude. The entire force of physical and mental workers will emerge as a prominent force in nation-building tasks only if they are united in performing various duties of states.

In order to enhance the physical and mental capability of the workers, they are required to be aware of the three following guidelines: to stay away from party politics; to avoid bureacratic ideology and procedures; and to be free from corruption. If the noble and clean life of the workers is subjected to the color of party politics, discord and disunity among workers are bound to emerge. They will also fail to perform their duties toward the public and the production of commodities will fall.

There is a need to remove bureacratic ideas and procedures in order to speed up the process of establishing the multiparty democratic state. Likewise, the workers must be free from corruption. Physical and mental workers are required to avoid all kinds of corruption and consider them dangers which should be shunned.

Nation-building and development activities clearly are being carried out with momentum during the time while the SLORC is taking responsibility. Much financial investment have been made for those activities in order to ensure prosperity and development for the national races, including workers, residing in the Union. Priority is being given to the development border areas where our national brethren are residing.

The SLORC government, in all aspects, has been fufilling the need for workers to alleviate the burden of the commodity prices. These prices have been rising gradually for various reasons. It has also been undertaking arrangements for the welfare of the workers and enhancing the pay scale of the workers as well as pensioners, alloting housing plots for them to make house ownership possible, and granting interest-free long-term loans for construction of their houses, and by opening Government Employees Cooperative shops.

Workers should be aware that they have rights as well as responsibilities individually and collectively in accordance with the existing laws, rules, regulations, orders, and directives, especially in implementing the targens of the national economic development set by the state. Workers, like peasants, play a principal role. Therefore, I would like to urge the workers not only to perform their main tasks conscientiously and loyally to fully implement the targets laid down by the state for the economic year 1993-94, but also to carry out other associated tasks as a means to contribute support within their own capacity.

In conformity with the SLORC's Declaration No. 1/90, the National Convention has been going on since 9 Janaury to lay down fundamental principles for writing an enduring state constitution. Delegates representing the national people are carrying out open and thorough discussions at the National Convention in order to obtain the fundamental principles.

We should take pride in the workers delegates and the state service personnel, who are taking part in discussions at the National Convention for the emergence of an enduring constitution with the long-term interests of the state in mind.

I would hereby emphatically like to urge the physical and mental workers of the Union of Myanmar to implement the national development tasks with genuine national political outlook, noble outlook, and goodwill; to strive to carry out their duty for maintaining peace and security of the state hand in hand with the Defense Services; and to uphold our three national causes of the SLORC—nondistegration of the Union; nondisintegration of national solidarity; and perpetuation of national sovereignty.

Minister, Yunnan Officials Discuss Economic Ties

BK0105103493 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Mr. (Cheng Peng Miang), chief of Kunming Railway Bureau of the PRC's Yunnan Province, and Mr. (Wu An Kuan), general manager of the Yunnan Machinery Export-Import Corporation, called on Lieutenant General Tun Kyi, member of the State Law and Order Restoration Council and trade minister, at 1300 today in the Ministry of Trade.

Cordial and frank discussions were held on bilateral economic and trade matters; construction of a hotel and factories for producing cigarettes, timber, and seasoning powders; cooperation between Yunnan Province and Myanmar [Burma] to hold a Chinese trade fair; and in the field of transportation.

Health Ministry Delegation Returns From PRC

BK0105111293 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] A Myanmar [Burmese] delegation led by Deputy Health Minister Colonel Than Zin returned to Yangon [Rangoon] by air this afternoon after having paid a goodwill visit to the PRC. During the goodwill visit, the delegation participated in study tours and held discussions. Deputy Health Minister Col. Than Zin was welcomed at the airport by Mr. Liang Feng, the PRC ambassador, and heads of departments under the Ministry of Health.

Fisheries Minister Returns from U.S. Study Tour

BK3004081493 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] A Myanmar [Burmese] delegation led by Brigadier General Maung Maung, minnister of livestock breeding and fisheries, left for the United states on 11 April to study fisheries in the United States and to discuss expansion of fisheries, promotion of export and other related development facilities in Myanmar at the invitation of Ms. Miriam Marshall Segal, chairperson of Miriam Marshall Associates International Limited.

The delegation visited Minneapolis, New York, Boston, and Washington and discussed fisheries and marine industry, livestock breeding, and other economic enterprises with businessmen and studied fisheries market. The delegation also met and held discussions with members of the U.S. Congress.

On their return trip, the delegation studied fisheries industry in Singapore and held discussions with businessmen. The delegation returned to Yangon [Rangoon] by Myanmar Airways plane this evening.

Minister Brig. Gen. Maung Maung and his delegation were welcomed at the airport by Lieutenant General Kyaw Min, member of the State Law and Order Restoration Council and minister of mines; U Than Shwe, minister of industry-2; officials from the Ministry of Livestock Breeding and Fisheries and the Ministry of Agriculture; and family members.

The Myanmar delegation met with members of the U.S. Congress and held discussions on economic investment and joint ventures in Myanmar. On their return trip, the delegation visited Singapore and met with members of the fisheries organizations and businessmen and discussed bilateral economic cooperation and trade and investment in fisheries, marine, and livestock breeding industry.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Brunei

New Nautral Gas Export Accord Signed With Japan

BK0205062893 Kuala Belait THE BORNEO BULLETIN in English 10-11 Apr 93 p1

[By Ignatius Stephen]

[Text] Brunei has come away feeling good in the gas talks.

The nation will export more liquified natural gas (LNG) to Japan for the next 20 years than ever before possibly earning more cash to ensure the country's continued prosperity.

Brunei earns nearly [Bruneian] $2,000 milion in LNG exports each year. All of the gas goes to Japan.

A Brunei Oil and Gas Authority statement indicates in the previous 20-year contract, 5.14 million tons of LNG per year was exported to Japan.

But now during coming 20 years, Brunei will export more—5.54 million tons—which could mean more money for Brunei.

The April accord was not easily reached, however.

For more than two years, Brunei and Japan have been participating in the discussions.

The going was tough. "The Japanese wanted everything to be spelled out," said a Brunei participant.

The subject was also raised by Japanese Prime Minister Mr. Kiichi Miyazawa during his visit to Brunei.

It is difficult to pin down how much Brunei will gain as the result of the just announced gas agreement as prices are tied to current crude oil prices and other factors.

But the new export volume contracted is up by 10 percent.

The actual export figures could amount to more in practical terms.

Paper Urges Stricter Controls on Expired Food

BK3004151493 Kuala Belait THE BORNEO BULLETIN in English 18 Apr 93 p 1

[By Ignitius Stephen]

[Text] Tough old birds of undermined age sold on the cheap are causing somewhat of a flap.

Consumer circles are branding them as "prehistoric" creatures and say they should be kept out by stricter control.

The birds in question are frozen chicken that are being dumped in Brunei in ever increasing quantities.

They are being sold on the cheap by errant importers.

These birds cannot be sold in neighboring Malaysia and Singapore where strict laws have been passed regarding expiry dates.

All imported chicken should bear the date of slaughter certified by the government board for import into these country.

Birds killed beyond a certain period are not being allowed into those neighboring regions because of possible toxic effects.

But in Brunei no such laws exist and it is a free for all situation.

Rising food imports amount are inching up each year and ranks third in value after machinery and transport equipment and manufactured goods.

Chicken is fast becoming a staple in Brunei replacing the traditional fish based diet.

Malaysia

Prime Minister, Deputy Invited To Visit DPRK

BK3004114493 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0929 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Apr 30 (OANA-BERNAMA)—North Korean President Kim Il-Song has invited Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed and Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba for a visit.

The invitation was extended through a delegation from the North Korean Information Committee which called on Dr. Mahathir and Ghafar here Friday, Information Minister Mohamed Rahmat said after meeting the six-member delegation, led by its chairman Kim Gi Ryong, who is on a seven-day visit to Malaysia.

Mohamed said the countries recognized the importance of having direct links to boost bilateral trade between the two countries. He said at present, the volume of bilateral trade is small and bussiness is done through a third country. Mohamed said a committee was set up last year to study ways of implementing the exhange of tv programmes between the two countries.

He said the committee would hold its first meetimg in October in Pyongyang.

It would also discuss technical co-operation and exchange of officers, he added.

Chief Minister: Sabah Bans Unfinished Log Exports

BK0105132093 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 29 Apr 93 p 10

[Text] Kota Kinabalu, Wed—The State Government has decided to ban the export of round logs with immediate effect.

Chief Minister Datuk Sri Joseph Pairin Kitingan made the announcement after chairing a meeting with all interested parties in the timber industry, including senior officers from the Forestry Department and the Natural Resources Secretary.

Pairin said the ban was necessary to ensure there were enough logs of the right quality and type for the wood-based industries.

In addition, he said, processing would result in a higher degree of utilisation and less wastage, leading to better conservation of the State's forest resources.

The Chief Minister also disclosed that the State Government had decided to collect royalty at source.

A task force, chaired by the Secretary of Natural Resources Datuk William Shim, has been formed to study and make recommendations for the collection of royalty by June 1 this year.

He said the decision would remove the uncertainty over log exports and how committed the State Government was to ensure supply for the processing sector. The ban is also consistent with the State Government's declared policy of managing forest resources on a sustained yield basis, Pairin added.

Pairin had, two weeks ago, announced a temporary freeze on the shipment of round logs from the State.

The freeze was imposed after the Primary Industries Ministry issued permits to four timber companies to export logs without prior consultation with the State Government. Pairin had said he was not happy with the ministry's unilateral move in granting the permits as he felt that the State Government should be consulted first.

He said the issuing of permits to the timber companies, following the gradual lifting of the temporary ban on log exports from Sabah, was subject to further scrutiny.

Ministry Official Calls for Stop to Serb Atrocities

BK0305071493 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0519 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, May 3 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia would call for continued international pressure on the Serbs if they fail to show positive signs of conforming to the internetional peace accord signed in Athens Sunday [2 May]. Foreign Ministry Secretary General Ahmad Kamil Jaafar said that the Serbs must show their seriousness toward the peace plan to bring an end to the tragedy in Bosnia.

While we remain hopeful about the peace plan, the Serbs must prove that they are serious about it by showing willingness to stop the atrocities in Bosnia, he said when contacted on Monday.

According to him, Malaysia would use all the necessary means at the international level to exert pressure on the Serbs if the peace plan failed to achieve objectives.

On Sunday, Serb leader Radovan Karadzic signed the accord at a peace conference in Athens.

The agreement would be considered null and void if the self-styled Serb Parliament, which rejected the plan previously, refused to ratify the accord at a session next Wednesdey.

On other possible efforts that could be taken if Karadzic fail to get the support of his parliament, Ahmad Kamil said the United States and European countries should consider other decisive measures against the Serbs, including air strikes. Such action is very important as the atrocities have been going on for too long, he added.

Singapore

Japan's Trade Minister Mori Meets Premier Goh

OW0305101393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0950 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] Singapore, May 3 KYODO—Japan and Singapore agreed in principle Monday [3 May] to cooperate in training personnel from developing countries and in starting a bilateral dialogue for the development of high technology. The accord emerged at a series of talks between Japanese International Trade and Industry Minister Yoshiro Mori and top Singapore leaders, including Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, a Japanese spokesman said.

Mori, here on the second leg of a three-nation tour which earlier took him to Indonesia, also conferred separately with Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hsieng Loong, and Trade and Industry Minister Suppiah Dhanabalan. During the talks with Goh and Dhanabalan, Mori suggested that Japanese funds be combined with Singapore's facilities and expertise to train both government and private-sector personnel from developing nations such as Vietnam, the spokesman said. The idea of cooperation between Japan and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) for the development of poorer countries in the region was broached by Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa during his visit in January to four of ASEAN's six members.

Mori proposed that the bilateral dialogue for high-tech development take a more comprehensive approach to include existing and planned cooperation between the two countries. This would include a project to develop artificial intelligence and a proposal for joint research on four-dimension or "real world" computer technology, the spokesman said. Both Goh and Dhanabalan welcomed the proposals, he said, quoting the prime minister as saying the dialogue would not cost much but its benefits would be great.

Goh, who is to visit Japan next week, also suggested the personnel training plan be expanded to cover countries in other regions such as Africa, the spokesman said. Touching on his visit to Beijing last month, Goh expressed concern over escalating investment in China from advanced countries in contrast to peaking investment in ASEAN, he said. Comparing China to a "vacuum cleaner" sucking in technology and money, Goh urged Japan to consciously try to maintain the percentage of its present share of investment in ASEAN to its global total, the spokesman added.

Mori will leave for home Wednesday [5 May] after proceeding later Monday [3 May] to Brunei, his third and final stop on the weeklong tour.

Romania's Melescanu Pays Official Visit

AU3004145593 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0954 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 30/4/1993—Teodor Melescanu, minister of state and foreign minister of Romania concluded his official visit to the Republic of Singapore at the invitation of his counterpart, Wong Kan Seng, part of a two-week tour on the American and Asian continents.

During the talks, the chiefs of the Romanian and the Singaporean diplomacy examined ways to give an impetus for further developing bilateral collaboration in all fields of activity. Also agreed was to further intensify contacts at government and non-government level, and talks between the foreign ministries of the two countries in a flexible and mutually acceptable way. The Singaporean minister of foreign affairs was invited to pay a visit to Romania at a mutually convenient date.

The Romanian dignitary also had interviews with Mr. S. Dhanabalan, minister of trade and industries, with the president of the Singaporean Office for Trade Promotion, the Romanian part showing considerable interest for a more active and considerable presence of Singaporean companies in Romania.

It was agreed that for setting up a framework for expanding economic ties between Romania and Singapore, some agreements should be negotiated and concluded in various fields, such as the promotion and guarantee of investments, the avoidance of double taxation, and sea transport.

Mr. Melescanu was also received by Wee Kim Wee, president of the Republic of Singapore, to whom he extended a cordial message on behalf of Romania's president, Ion Iliescu. The head of the Singaporean state thanked for the message and pointed out the openness of the officials in Singapore to grow relations of collaboration on a more extensive plane with Romania. A message was extended, on the same occasion, for the prime minister of the Republic of Singapore, Goh Chok Tong, on behalf of his Romanian counterpart, Nicolae Vacaroiu, together with a letter inviting him to pay a visit to Romania.

Trade Board Reports Growing Trade With Indochina

BK3004062093 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 29 Apr 93 p 36

[Text] Singapore's total trade with Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos grew to [Singapore] $683.5 million in the first quarter latest Trade Development Board (TDB) figures showed.

This was a 5 percent increase from the $648.4 million two-way trade between the republic and the three Indochinese countries in the previous October-December 1992 quarter.

TDB only began to release monthly trade statistics with Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos on an individual-country basis from last month after aggregating them with other countries since 1985.

In 1986, the government decided not to publish Singapore's trade with these countries individually but to put them together under "other countries in Southeast Asia," and later under "other countries in Asia."

However, only monthly figures from July last year are available.

A TDB spokesman said that trade data before that is classified information.

TDB's numbers showed that Vietnam accounted for about three quarters of Singapore's bilateral trade with the three countries.

In the January-March period this year, $515.8 million worth of trade was transacted between the republic and Vietnam.

Exports to Vietnam—largely of refined petroleum products—totalled $376.3 million.

Imports from there, comprising mainly crude oil and coffee, amounted to $139.5 million.

The republic's trade with Vietnam has been growing over the years.

It increased from $1 billion in 1990 to $1.5 billion in 1991 and reached $1.7 billion last year.

Singapore's exports to Cambodia and Laos also exceeded its imports from those countries.

In the first quarter, the republic shipped $150.8 million of goods such as tobacco products and woven fabrics to Cambodia, and took in $11.8 million worth of items, mainly crude natural rubber.

Singapore exported $4.9 million of goods to Laos (largely alcoholic beverages) and imported $0.2 million of goods (mainly coffee).

In 1985, two-way trade between Singapore and Vietnam was $420.2 million. With Cambodia, it was $33.7 million, and Laos $25.8 million.

Minister: Sri Lankan President's Death 'Tragedy'

BK0205112293 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1100 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] The foreign minister, Mr. Wong Kan Seng, says the death of President Premadasa is a tragedy for the country. In a statement expressing condolences to the late president's family, Mr. Wong says he is shocked and saddened by the brutal murder. Singapore hopes President Premadasa's bold efforts to find a peaceful end to the violence and conflicts in Sri Lanka will not end despite his untimely death.

Cambodia

Sihanouk Discusses 'Declining' Health

BK0105022493 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Message from Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council, to "compatriots"; dated 30 April—read by announcer]

[Text] Beloved and respected compatriots: Yesterday I went to the central state hospital in the PRC capital city of Beijing in order to have my health rechecked and treated. I will continue to go to that hospital to have my health checked by competent Chinese doctors.

My health is declining. Everyday I need to take about 20 kinds of medicine. Moreover, my eyesight, which has been weakening since last year, also needs medical care and treatment every day.

Doctors have advised me not to read or write too much, but I have difficulty following this correct recommendation. They have also asked me to rest for one month.

I would like to extend to my beloved compatriots my thoughtful sentiments.

[Dated] Beijing, 30 April
[Signed] Prince Norodom Sihanouk

Urges Cease-Fire, Support for Polls

HK0105052693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0508 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] Beijing, May 1 (AFP)—Prince Norodom Sihanouk on Saturday called on all Cambodian warring factions to implement an immediate countrywide cease-fire and support U.N.-sponsored elections later this month.

The prince asked in an open letter released here that the parties "respect fully all details of regulations set down by the United Nations Transitional Authority on Cambodia."

He also called for an immediate and definitive cease-fire throughout the country before the election, and said the elected government could settle the problem of Vietnamese settlers in Cambodia through peaceful means and through negotiations with Hanoi.

The factions should set store in "the respect due to all political parties without favor and to all Cambodian citizens (and) the respect of the free and fair character of the upcoming elections and of the secrecy of voters' ballots," he said.

Prince Sihanouk, who is in the Chinese capital for medical treatment, was apparently aiming his message at the Khmer Rouge, which has said it will boycott the May 23-27 polls.

The Khmer Rouge have boycotted the election process, charging that Vietnamese troops remain in Cambodia. Hanoi says it withdrew all its troops in 1989.

NADK Spokesman: PDK Does Not Expel UNTAC Personnel

BK0205013893 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 1 May 93

["Rejection" by the spokesman of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea; dated 1 May—read by announcer]

[Text] I. UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] leaders on 30 April decided to withdraw five UNTAC personnel from Pailin. An UNTAC spokesman has slanderously charged that the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] does not want the UNTAC presence in Pailin any further. This is nothing but a slanderous accusation with politically motivated bad intentions.

II. The spokesman of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea [NADK] totally and categorically rejects the accusation and wishes to make the following clarification:

A. The issue of the UNTAC leaders' withdrawing their staff members from Pailin does not depend on the PDK's decision. It is General Sanderson and Colonel (Healy) who have, a long time ago, written to the PDK asking for the withdrawal of their personnel from Pailin.

The PDK's representatives in both Phnom Penh and Pailin are of the opinion that the PDK has only respected the UNTAC leaders' decision. The PDK has not expelled the UNTAC staff from Pailin; it is Gen. Sanderson and Col. (Healy), who have decided to withdraw their personnel themselves.

B. The charge intentionally made by UNTAC is a language that has frequently and normally been used by the man called Eric Falt to hurl accusations against the PDK. When anything happens, he always blames it on the PDK. However, UNTAC and the man called Eric Falt have never observed the consequences their unscrupulous activities and deeds. All the complicated problems have arisen due to the collusion of the UNTAC leaders and the alliances in and outside UNTAC with the Yuon [pejorative term for Vietnamese] and the Yuon puppets in abstaining from implementing the Paris accord. Therefore, UNTAC and the man called Eric Falt themselves should observe and look at their ugly face in a mirror. If they just resort to making accusations against others, no problem can be solved.

[Dated] 1 May

[Signed] NADK spokesman

Spokesman Confirms Participation in Beijing Talks

BK0305011593 Bangkok THE NATION in English 3 May 93 p a5

[By Kunchada Chaiphiphat From Phnom Penh]

[Text] Cambodian nominal leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk will hold a meeting with representatives of the State of Cambodia (SOC) and the former Cambodian tripartite resistance coalition in Beijing this week to try and promote national reconciliation and peace ahead of the general election.

The meeting will likely be held either Wednesday or Thursday [5 or 6 May].

The plan was already agreed upon by Phnom Penh, Sihanouk's non-communist royalist party Funcinpec [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful and Cooperative Cambodia] and the Khmer People's Liberation Front (KPNLF). But the response from the pro-Marxist Khmer Rouge was not yet known.

Phnom Penh had declined Sihanouk's earlier proposal to convene the Supreme National Council [SNC] in Beijing on Thursday because government leaders among SNC members would be busy with their campaigns.

Phnom Penh government spokesman Khieu Kanharit, however, confirmed SOC participation yesterday. He said the SOC representatives would include Foreign Minister Hor Namhong, Deputy Minister to the Prime Minister's Office Cham Prasit—both SNC members—and himself. Khieu said the SOC will today discuss issues to be raised at the meeting.

Prince Norodom Sereivut of Funcinpec and senior KPNLF official Ieng Muli also confirmed yesterday that their would join the Beijing talks. [sentence as published] But neither was sure if their respective leaders, Prince Ranariddh and Son Sann would attend.

UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia chief Yasushi Akashi will also attend the meeting.

According to Khieu, Sihanouk's proposed topics include conflicts between the SOC and the former tripartite resistance factions, peace in the run-up to the election and the poll process itself.

He said a dispute between Phnom Penh's Cambodian People's Party (CPP) and Funcinpec over freedom to fly SNC-authorized aircraft throughout Cambodia would also be on the agenda.

Khmer Rouge Agree to Emergency Talks in PRC

BK0305113093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1103 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] Bangkok, May 3 (AFP)—The Khmer Rouge have agreed to send a representative to an emergency meeting of Cambodia's rival factions in Beijing called this week by Cambodian leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk, well informed sources said here Monday.

The radical Marxist group, which is boycotting U.N.-organised elections to be held later this month in Cambodia, will be represented at the meeting by a senior official but not by a leader of the faction, said the sources, who declined to be identified.

The sources, who are familiar with Cambodia developments, named the official as Chan Youran, the Khmer Rouge Ambassador to Beijing.

The meeting, which is to take place in the Chinese capital Wednesday and Thursday, will bring together representatives of all rival Cambodian factions—the Phnom Penh government, the Khmer Rouge, the government's bitter foe, and two small guerrilla groups allied to the Khmer Rouge during the Cambodian war.

Prince Sihanouk, who is currently in Beijing where he says he needs to undergo medical treatment, has told the factions that participants need not be members of the Supreme National Council (SNC).

The SNC, of whom the prince is the chairman, was formed under Cambodia's 1991 peace accord as a reconciliation body grouping leaders of the rival factions.

But last month Khmer Rouge SNC members, Khieu Samphan and Son Sen, left Phnom Penh, saying their safety could no longer be guaranteed in the Cambodian capital.

The Beijing discussions are to take place in the wake of a dramatic attack Monday by the Khmer Rouge on the northern city of Siem Reap, where many foreign tourists land to visit the famed Angkor Wat temple complex—symbol of the Cambodian nation.

The faction's guerrillas briefly held Siem Reap airport and attempted to take the city before being pushed back.

Colombian UN Peacekeeper Killed, Others Injured

BK0105123493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1203 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, May 1 (AFP)—A Colombian policeman serving with the United Nations in Cambodia was shot and killed in an attack by unknown gunmen in the central part of the country, a U.N. official said Saturday.

In addition, a Malaysian policeman was seriously injured in Friday night's attack in central Kompong Cham province, U.N. spokesman Eric Falt said.

In a separate incident, two Uruguayan U.N. peacekeepers were injured in a grenade attack Friday night in nearby Kratie province, Falt said.

In the Kompong Thom attack, three policemen, one of them ill and on his way to hospital in the provincial capital, drove into a village that was being "attacked and looted by a group of unidentifed individuals," Falt said.

When the attackers saw the U.N. vehicle they attacked it with automatic weapons, killing the Colombian and wounding the Malaysian.

Colombian Caicedo Venancio, 28, was the 11th peacekeeper in Cambodia to die as a result of hostile action, Falt said. The Malaysian, who was not identified, was evacuated to hospital in Kuala Lumpur Saturday, Falt added. The third U.N. peacekeeper, also Colombian, was unhurt.

In the Kratie incident, meanwhile, two Uruguayans were slightly injured in a grenade attack by unknown assailants, Falt said.

The Khmer Rouge, which has decided to boycot U.N.-sponsored elections May 23-27, has been blamed for at least six of the UN deaths so far.

Earlier Saturday, Prince Norodom Sihanouk called for a total ceasefire and full cooperation with the U.N. in holding the late May polls. Prince Sihanouk indicated he might be forced to take a month-long rest because of poor health. Diplomats said the prince, widely seen as essential for peace in Cambodia, was distancing himself from the U.N. elections.

Gunmen Attack Six UN Peacekeepers

BK0305065493 Hong Kong AFP in English 0631 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] PHNOM PENH, May 3 (AFP)—Gunmen again attacked U.N. peacekeepers Monday in eastern Kompong Cham province, where recent action by Khmer Rouge guerrillas has seriously destabilized the security situation.

Five Indian soldiers serving with the U.N. peacekeeping mission were lightly wounded by shrapnel as the gunmen fired rocket-propelled grenades and assault rifles at their armed convoy, U.N. spokesman Eric Falt said.

The Indians were evacuated by helicopter to the U.N. hospital in Phnom Penh, where they were reported to be in good condition, he said.

About 20 Indian peacekeepers were in a convoy of three vehicles driving in the most northern district of Kompong Cham when they came under fire. The peacekeepers fired their weapons to repel the attackers, Falt said.

The attack occurred in the same district and in the same manner in which a Colombian civilian police officer was killed on Friday night.

The United Nations has not attributed blame for either of the attacks, but the district just south of troubled Kompong Thom province has a heavy Khmer Rouge presence.

Also on Friday night in northwest Cambodia, unidentified assailants threw three hand grenades into the base camp of Dutch peacekeepers in Thmar Puok.

One Dutch soldier was injured and was evacuated to a Bangkok hospital with a light shrapnel wound to the abdomen, Falt said.

Thmar Puok is nominally controlled by the non-communist forces loyal to former prime minister Son Sann, but the Khmer Rouge is known to hold the real economic and military power in the area.

U.S. aid to the resistance forces during the 14-year civil war was channelled through Thmar Puok.

Monday's attack brought the U.N. casualty toll since the weekend to one dead and seven injured.

A Malaysian policeman who was seriously injured in the Friday attack which killed the Colombian was recovering in a Kuala Lumpur hospital from gunshot wounds to the leg, hand and abdomen, Falt said.

Khmer Rouge Attack Siem Reap Town; Fighting at Airport

BK0305040393 Hong Kong AFP in English 0402 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] PHNOM PENH, May 3 (AFP)—Suspected Khmer Rouge guerrillas launched a pre-dawn attack Monday on the Cambodian tourist town of Siem Reap, a U.N. official said.

The fighting began around 4:30 a.m. (2130 GMT Sunday) around the town's airport and between the airport and the town, where thousands of tourists land to see Angkor Wat each year, the official said.

Information about the fighting was still sketchy, he said, but added there were no casualties among U.N. peacekeepers.

He said all U.N. and civilian flights into and out of Siem Reap had been cancelled.

The Khmer Rouge has repeatedly refused to ruled out the use of violence during Cambodia's ongoing election campaign.

The radical faction is boycotting the polls, which begin May 23.

Attack Continues

BK0305045293 Hong Kong AFP in English 0422 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] PHNOM PENH, May 3 (AFP)—Suspected Khmer Rouge guerrillas launched a pre-dawn attack Monday on the Cambodian tourist town of Siem Reap and fighting was continuing into the morning, U.N. officials said.

The fighting began around 4:30 a.m. (0930 GMT) around the town's airport and between the airport and the town, where thousands of tourists land to see Angkor Wat each year, the official said.

"The fighting has gone backwards and forwards" between the airport and the town, said U.N. military spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Dick Palk.

"There was some fighting at the airport," he said.

All flights, civilian and U.N. military, have been cancelled, he said.

No U.N. peacekeepers were among the casualties, but personnel were taking shelter in their bunkers, Palk said.

A Phnom Penh government official who declined to be identified said the Khmer Rouge had attacked and were being repelled by government forces.

No word on civilian casualties was immediately available, and U.N. officials in Siem Reap could not be reached by telephone.

Attack Reportedly Repelled

BK0305051893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0515 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] PHNOM PENH, May 3 (AFP)—Khmer Rouge guerrillas attempted to take over the tourist town of Siem Reap early Monday but were repelled by government troops in fighting around the airport that left up to 17 people dead, a Phnom Penh government official said.

U.N. peacekeepers in the city housing the famed Angkor Wat temple complex were seeking shelter in their bunkers and were not among the casualties, a U.N. spokesman said.

U.N. military and civilian flights to Siem Reap airport were cancelled, U.N. military spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Dick Palk said.

The fighting began around 4:30 a.m. (1930 GMT Sunday) around the town's airport and between the airport and the town, he said.

"The fighting has gone backwards and forwards" between the airport and the town, Palk said. "There was some fighting at the airport," he said.

The Phnom Penh government spokesman, Khieu Kanharith, said 13 Khmer Rouge guerrillas were killed and two were captured in the fighting. One government soldier and three civilians were also killed, he said.

"They tried to take over Siem Reap for some hours, but they could not," he said, adding the guerrillas had been repelled to about 10 kilometers (six miles) outside the city.

"If they had just succeeded in taking Siem Reap for one or two hours, they could make big propaganda," he said. "Siem Reap is well-known around the world."

A takeover of the city, even briefly, could frighten away the few remaining tourists in Cambodia and score "both political and economic gain" for the Khmer Rouge, Khieu Kanharith said. Seven houses were burned to the ground in the attack, along with a sawmill, he said.

The Khmer Rouge has refused to rule out the use of violence during Cambodia's ongoing campaign for elections later this month. In a radio broadcast last week the radical faction, which is boycotting the poll, called for all-out "struggle" against the Phnom Penh government.

Phnom Penh Radio Reports Attack

BK0305065093 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 3 May 93

["News flash"]

[Text] According to reports from Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province, on the morning of 3 May at 0500, Khmer Rouge rebels and bandits cooperated with FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] troops and grossly and insolently launched an attack on Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey provincial town, (?including) the airfield, the power plant, Phsa Leu market, and the (?head) of the bridge east of the provincial town, killing one and wounding (?one) of our soldiers. Three civilians were killed and (?nine) others were wounded. Seven houses were burned and much property and materiel were lost.

However, exercizing the right to self-defense, the Cambodian People's Armed Forces valiantly and courageously fought back with the aim of protecting the people's lives and property and ensuring their safety, as well as the safety of the coming election. In this counterattack, [passage indistinct].

AFP Profiles Pol Pot, Alias 'Lamut'

BK2504091693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0844 GMT 25 Apr 93

[by Patrick Lescot]

[Text] ARANYAPRATHET, Thailand, April 25 (AFP)—Salot Sar, alias Pol Pot, the shadowy Khmer Rouge chief who became dictator of Cambodia from 1975-1979, has changed his name to Lamut and become far more active in recent months, according to a well-informed source on the frontier here.

The communist chief, whose brutal tyranny left more than one million Cambodians dead by execution, starvation and forced labor, remains, despite successive "resignations," the incontestable head of the Khmer Rouge and works doggedly to recapture power, reliable sources said.

With the exception of hemorrhoids and attacks of malaria treated in China, "Lamut", the source said, is in good health, despite being a little overweight which he has been since the "lean" years when he kept company at dinners in Phnom Penh with the rare foreign dignitary, usually Chinese.

Pol Pot closed the Bank of Cambodia, got rid of money and preached an absolute egalitarianism. But when his chauffeur opened the car door for him—he was fond of cars and had three Japanese 4X4s, one red, one blue and one black—he addressed him as "Exellency" ("Ek Udom" in Cambodian), according to the source.

The Khmer Rouge chief is now based in a Thai village protected by three check points manned by a special unit of the Thai army, near the town of Trat and 300 kilometers (186 miles) southeast of Bangkok, informed sources say.

From there he can easily cross the Cambodian frontier some 30 kilometers (18 miles) away, and travel north to the Khmer Rouge capital of Pailin, home to the diamond and sapphire mines that, with the help of Thai businessmen, provide funds for the movement.

On April 1 this year Pol Pot went to Pailin to meet his top cadres, according to one source, and last November he visited his top henchman, "Ta Mok," known as "the butcher", in his northwestern fiefdom of Aniung Veng, the same source said.

Surrounded by mystery—most Cambodians have not heard his name since the overthrow of his government by the Vietnamese in 1979—the Khmer Rouge chief has used successive "authentically Khmer" pseudonyms, first "Bang Pol," then "Pol Pot."

In the movement he is referred to as "Number 1 Brother" or "Number 1 Uncle", and all unit commanders refer to him by the code number "87," according to a rare recent study of the movement.

"Lamut" is the Cambodian name for plum.

Pol Pot's first wife, Khieu Ponnari, aged 72 or 73 and known as her husband's "eminence grise" when he was in power, left China in 1989 or 1990, after two years of futile treatment in a Beijing psychiatric hospital, after losing her mind 10 years ago, a well-informed source said.

Khieu Ponnari, who was childless, now lives in Thailand near her sister Khieu Thirit, the formidable wife of Ieng Sary, one of the four top Khmer Rouge leaders alongside Nuon Chea and Ta Mok.

Khieu Thirit, former minister of social action in the Khmer Rouge government, is considered the most "extreme" of the group's old guard.

Pol Pot, a smiling affable man, speaks softly according to those who have met him, enlivened for some 10 years by a woman clearly younger than he is, with whom he has had a daughter and son.

The Khmer Rouge chief has initiated a "hearts and minds" campaign which seems to have borne some fruit in zones under Khmer Rouge control, the Cambodian source said.

His men, according to a tried Maoist tactic, are stepping up "good works" for the peasants, helping them at harvest time and protecting them from bandits, while drumming in the "Vietnamese occupation" bogey, four years after Hanoi's troop withdrawal.

Pol Pot, the source says, also initiated the apparent Khmer Rouge volte-face eight months after the signing of the October 1991 Paris peace accords, when they refused to lay down arms and open their zones to U.N. observers.

Since then they have announced a boycott of elections under U.N. supervision, scheduled for May 23-27 and carried out several massacres of Vietnamese in Cambodia.

Pol Pot will be 65 on the 19th of May, at least officially. Records in official French archives show the student Salot Sar, who lived in Paris' 15th arrondissement from 1949 to 1953, was born May 19, 1928.

Philippines

Ramos China Visit Said 'Most Successful'

HK0105060893 Quezon City ABC-DWET Television in Tagalog 1000 GMT 30 Apr 93

[From "ABC-DWET News" Program]

[Text] President Fidel Ramos' six-day visit to China is at its end and he will return home tomorrow. The China state visit is said to be have been the most successful of the president's official visits, based on the number and extent of the agreements he brought home. These agreements are in the fields of trade, tourism, and technology.

Here is Luz Rimban for the whole report:

[Begin recording] [Rimban] President Ramos' six-day state visit to China has ended. He said that this has been the most successful trip he has made because of the government's concrete achievements.

[Ramos] President Jiang Zemin extended a U.S.$25 million facility for the construction of mini hydroelectric plants and additional commercial credits for two 300-megawatt thermal plants.

[Rimban] The government entered into three major agreements with the Chinese Government in the fields of trade, tourism, and technology exchanges. The private sector, on the other hand, entered into 14 joint venture agreements with the Chinese. [end recording]

Ramos also succeeded in getting the six top Filipino-Chinese business tycoons into a consortium, where each of them would invest P100 million [Philippine pesos].

But they will be allowed to borrow from banks and government financial institutions to raise the funds needed.

Former Ambassador Alfonso Yuchenco, leader of the six taipans [tycoons], said this is an opportunity for Filipino-Chinese to help in the country's development.

But he said discrimination against Chinese should also be eradicated.

Ramos Reports on PRC, Hong Kong Visit

HK0105062093 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0105 GMT 1 May 93

[Speech by President Fidel V. Ramos on his arrival at the Villamor Air Base, Pasay City, after his visit to the People's Republic of China and Hong Kong—live, in English; broadcast in progress]

[Text] ...of being the first head of state to be received by President Jiang Zemin in his new capacity as the new president of the People's Republic of China.

As I said upon our departure, our visit would be a pilgrimage to the well-spring of our culture, to the ancestral homeland of a significant segment of our population, and so it was. But I also said that the visit was above all, a journey to the future, and it was that. [applause]

The visit was also a voyage of discovery; the discovery of where the Philippines could be if we could put our act together and seize the opportunities offered by the common aspirations in our Asia-Pacific region for a greater degree of economic collaboration and political cooperation.

From China's highest leaders we learned of Beijing's strategic vision; a vision of sustained peace, progress, and stability; a vision of economic growth and cooperation for the Asia-Pacific region to which we belong. We welcome their assurances of China's peaceful intentions and the defensive nature of her military modernization.

President Jiang and I reaffirmed the understanding between our two countries on the essential need for the peaceful settlement of territorial disputes in the South China Sea, and the desirability of cooperation in the area's preservation and development of the disputed areas therein.

We learned and saw that the primary factor fuelling the amazing economic growth of China is the opening up of her economy to market sources under a decentralized system, benefiting her southern provinces and selected economic zones. This liberalization has unleashed the great productive energies of the Chinese people and enlisted a large portion of the world's capital resources in the service of China's development.

In Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangzhou, we heard and saw how China's towns and villages are organizing and operating their own industries, tremendously expanding their productive capacity, raising substantially the living standards of their people.

We observed the high value that China has placed on science and technology and how the Chinese have put basic science and advanced technology in the service of economic development and the welfare of the people.

In turn we informed China's national, provincial, and business leaders of the progress of our national unification efforts, the political stability that we have restored, and the measures we have taken to make our country attractive to investments, trade, technology transfer, and tourism. We also articulated to the Chinese leadership our own national aspirations and our vision of regional security that we would want to see prevail in Asia and the Pacific based on economic sufficiency and sustained growth.

Our two governments signed the trade protocol for 1993 in which we undertook to increase our bilateral trade from US$400 million to $600 million, and, through specific steps, to diversify the composition of that trade.

We also concluded a framework economic and technological cooperation agreement and a tourism protocol that would increase tourism in both countries.

Recognizing the importance of energy to our economic development program and the problems we are encountering in this sector, President Jiang announced the offer of the Chinese Government of credits in the amount of $25 million for the acquisition of mini-hydroelectric equipment.

We are most grateful for this, as we are for the announcement by President Jiang of 2.5 million yuan, or about 12.5 million [Philippine] pesos, in assistance in kind to the victims of Mt. Mayon. [applause]

The cabinet members in my delegation held discussions with their counterparts. These talks have open the way to broader, more diverse, and more intensive cooperation in pollution abatement, reforestation, scientific and technolo?ical exchanges, and the application of science to agriculture and animal husbandry. Our legislators have their own meetings with the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the National People's Congress of China. Philippine business leaders and captains of industries who accompanied me established their strength and business relationship with their Chinese counterparts. Such contacts bore substantial results in terms of several agreements signed in my presence, ranging from joint ventures for the construction of two 300 megawatt coal-fired power plants in Batangas, to the building in Tarlac of a big factory with Chinese technology, to the increased exportation of Philippine fruits to China, to the construction of low-cost housing in Laguna, to the manufacture of agricultural machinery in Pangasinan.

The Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade signed a cooperation agreement that would in itself promote further trade contacts between our two countries.

As in all of my visits to our neighbors, I had the welfare of our countrymen living in those countries uppermost in my mind. In Beijing and in Hong Kong where we stopped over on the way home, we met with the Filipinos living in those two great cities. We found out that they do honor to our country and I convey to them the gratitude of our nation.

I received the assurance of the Chinese Government that the conditions for the employment of Filipinos in Hong Kong, which are generally more favorable than those in other countries where Filipino workers are employed, will be maintained even after Hong Kong reverts to Chinese sovereignty in 1997. We are highly gratified by this.

At the bottomline, the most significant fruit of our visit to China is the genuine prospect of much-improved, stronger, friendlier, and more productive relations with a country that is one of our closest neighbors, an emerging economic dragon that is the fastest-growing in the world, potentially both an economic partner and competitor because of her tremendous natural and human resources.

It is to our national interest to have made this China connection at this time, for this augurs well for our own economic development and political stability.

In Hong Kong we had candid talks with both the Hong Kong authorities and Chinese representatives, and during those meetings we forged a mutually beneficial partnership between the Philippines and Hong Kong that should endure beyond July 1997.

We also had intensive discussions with leading members of the Hong Kong business community and we enlisted their support in the form of productive investments in the Philippines for job-generation and economic growth. We can, thus, also say that our brief stopover in Hong Kong, like our visit to China, was most fruitful. We are happy to be back home, and we thank the good Lord for keeping the nation safe and healthy. To all of you, many thanks and a happy Labor Day to all. Long live the Philippines.

Senators Question Agreement With PRC on Spratlys

HK0305042093 Manila MANILA STANDARD in English 1 May 93 p 2

[Report by Fel V. Maragay]

[Text] Senator Blas Ople, chairman of the Senate foreign relations committee, yesterday asked whether China will stop issuing its own oil exploration licenses unilaterally in the Spratly islands as a result of an agreement between the Philippines and China for a joint exploration of the mineral-rich archipelago in the South China Sea.

Ople also sought clarification whether China will be given access to the Kalayaan Islands which have been declared as part of the Philippine territory. Kalayaan Islands, the biggest of which is Pagasa, belong to the Spratly archipelago.

For her part, Sen. Leticia Ramos-Shahani, a foreign policy expert, said the Philippines should now do its "homework" by drawing up the baselines of its national territory in relation to the United Nations convention on the law of the sea.

Shahani said this will firm up the country's claim for a 200-mile-limit exclusive economic zone recognized under the said UN convention.

The agreement for a joint exploration of the Spratly archipelago was forged during the just-concluded state visit of President Ramos to China.

The two countries "have agreed to shelve the sovereignty issue" to pave the way for a joint development and exploration of the disputed territory, which has been confirmed by geologists to have vast deposits of oil and natural gas.

Ople and Shahani said the Ramos administration will also have to explain the implications of the joint exploration agreement on the conflicting territorial claims on the Spratly Islands by other claimant-countries, namely Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei.

In a press conference, Ople noted that Beijing authorized Crestone, an American company, in 1988 to conduct oil exploration in a portion of the Spratly archipelago which was also being claimed by Vietnam.

He said this precipitated an armed encounter between the Chinese and Vietnamese navies resulting in the loss of 78 lives on the Vietnamese side.

"Has Beijing agreed, on the basis of joint development, not to issue unilaterally permits or licenses to oil exploration in the Spratly area?" the senator from Bulacan asked.

Shahani described the bilateral agreement on joint exploration as "good."

"After all, the Chinese were making unilateral declaration that they owned the Spratlys. With many other countries claiming ownership of the islands, this could have been a flashpoint of tension in the region," she said.

Shahani, sister of President Ramos, said there is a lot of explaining to do on the effect of the said agreement on the Philippine territorial claim over Kalayaan Islands.

"This is something we must look into in order that in agreeing to a joint exploration with our neighbor, we do not lose legitimacy of our claim," she stressed in a separate press conference.

Ople said the Senate would ask for details of agreements assigned by the two countries on cooperation and military modernization, including a $3-million loan from China to initiate co-production of military hardware.

He said he will request Defense Secretary Renato de Villa to enlighten the Senate foreign relations committee on this reported transaction.

"What quid pro quo has been offered, or demanded, in return for Chinese assistance in the modernization of the Armed Forces of the Philippines? What implications will this have, if any, on our Mutual Defense Agreement with the United States and our security cooperation with members of ASEAN?" Ople asked.

Ople said Mr. Ramos deserves to be congratulated for a successful visit to China. The principal agreement signed in Beijing was one that would raise the level of bilateral trade from $400 million to $600 million.

The senator noted that this is just five percent of China's trade with ASEAN, which was $8 billion in 1992. The Philippines' share in the intra-ASEAN trade, on the other hand, is a miniscule two percent, he said.

"These factual data demonstrate that the Philippines remains isolated from the booming economy of our own region, and also from global trade. The presidential state visits to the region, may hopefully help rescue us from the persistently insular and parochial outlook that has retarded our economic growth," Ople said.

MNLF Claims Responsibility for Bombings

HK0305070693 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 0400 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] rebels are responsible for the bombings that have occurred in Mindanao region. MNLF spokesman Ustadz Sharif Zain Jali disclosed this in an interview with DZMM this morning. Ustadz said the sabotage were launched by MNLF rebels who do not believe on the offer of long-term peace by the Ramos government. Ustadz added that they are skeptical of the reported progress in the talks between the government and MNLF. He stressed that these rebels no longer have an open mind due to the failure of the past three administrations to resolve the rebels problem.

Thailand

Clinton 'Shuns Reality' on MIA Issue

BK0205070493 Bangkok THE NATION in English 2 May 93 p A10

[Editorial: "Hanoi's optimism fades as Clinton shuns reality"]

[Text] Earlier this year, US special envoy Gen [General] John Vessey lauded what he called the unprecedented cooperation from Vietnam in its efforts to account for more than 2,000 missing servicemen.

Before this, Hanoi handed over previously top secret military records and the then US administration under president George Bush allowed American firms to open offices in Vietnam and sign but not execute contracts. The American business community was poised for the final move and Vietnam expected an end to the 18-year-old economic and trade embargo imposed on it by the United States to be lifted anytime. Political analysts and oboservers, including this newspaper, were also optimistic that it could happen before the year ended.

But three months into President Bill Clinton's administration, Washington is still unable to forgive and forget its humiliating military defeat in Vietnam. Now it seems that the rapid re-establishment of diplomatic links and the complete end to the economic and trade ban seems unlikely.

Vietnam was hoping for significant progress at the current meeting of the International Monetary Fund, where Washington was expected to drop swiftly its objections to the agency lending money to Hanoi. At present US pressure on other countries is blocking desperately needed soft loans for Vietnam from the IMF, World Bank and other multilateral lending agencies.

In preparatory steps for the lifting of the US embargo, the IMF opened an office in Hanoi and a donors' conference is planned later this year. Sadly however that seems a bit too premature now.

A recent discovery of a document indicating Hanoi in 1972 had captured more US servicemen than it actually reported, dashed all hopes of Washington normalizing ties with Vietnam. The document emanating from Russia, has been rejected by Vietnam as a fake, and Clinton's envoy Gen Vessey said he had doubts about it.

Clinton however was not convinced about the dubious nature of the Russian document and said instead, "the White House does not know what it needs to know about missing US servicemen". Clinton's comments indicate he has been influenced more by the vocal families of the missing servicemen—whose passions have been inflamed by the strong anti-Hanoi lobbyists in Washington—than the commercial interests of American companies.

Because of this any moves now by the United States to lift the economic and trade embargo against Vietnam seem almost unlikely.

There is no doubt that Vietnam is doing all it can to help resolve the issue of the missing US servicemen—a fact which has even been admitted by Gen Vessey. "We've been doing everything possible and now the ball is on the American side," Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam told a group of foreign businessmen this week.

Washington has to accept the fact that many US servicemen whose names appeared in the MIA list, were in fact not missing. They simply died in circumstances that prevented their bodies from being properly identified. Even if it takes forever, Hanoi by itself will have no way of accounting for the over 2,200 US soldiers who went missing during the Vietnam War.

Vietnamese officials, in reminding the United States that they also bear the wounds of war with over 300,000 of their soldiers listed as missing, say the search for the MIAs would be much easier if diplomatic relations were in place between Hanoi and Washington.

Without doubt, the issue of the US missing servicemen is an emotional one. On the other hand however, Washington has to come to grips with reality and prevent groups from capitalizing on the emotions of the families, whose loved ones went missing in Vietnam.

If US-Vietnam ties are not normalized soon, the ultimate loser will be Washington itself. Japanese, South Korean, Taiwanese, Australian and other Asian investors, as well as the French and other Europeans, already have a head start in developing economic ties with the Indochinese country.

U.S. Asked To Consider Thai Role in Indochina

BK3004140593 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1200 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Suphachai Phanitchaphak said that the three-month postponement of the U.S. decision on Thailand's copyright violation issue is attributed to the United States being aware of the Thai Government's clear suppression efforts. He said Thailand's efforts were not the result of U.S. Government pressure but were carried out in accordance with existing Thai laws and righteousness.

Regarding negotiations with the United States concerning the requirement that Thailand amend at least two laws—copyright and patent laws—so that Thailand will be removed from the priority first country list, the deputy prime minister said the Thai Government will have to coordinate with several ministries, as well as consider the international aspects of its action and scientific requirements of the Public Health Ministry.

Regarding the Thai position in the current negotiations, the deputy prime minister said Thailand will ask the United States to take into consideration the treaties and the important trade role Thailand has had with the United States, as well as Thailand's prospective role as the gateway for trade with Indochina, which will have considerable impact on future trade in Thailand and the United States.

[Begin recording] [Suphachai] Indochina will have considerable meaning to the United States. Our economic foundation in this context should not be undermined. I feel that now that we have shown that we have taken action, we can request the United States to reciprocate by helping us.

[Unidentified correspondent] [passage indistinct]

[Suphachai] I am certain that I will bring it up for U.S. consideration. This is because the only way to make Thai people realize that our actions are not to appease the United States is for the United States to take into consideration our problems. Perhaps there should be mutual reciprocation. [end recording]

The deputy prime minister also expressed the opinion that there would not be significant benefit in signing a memorandum of understanding because Thailand has carried out what it pledged without having to make a formal signing. A signing could provoke local opposition because it could be viewed as a committment.

Further Trade Concessions to U.S. 'Unlikely

BK0105031493 Bangkok THE NATION in English 1 May 93 p B1, B3

[Text] As Commerce Minister Uthai Phimchaichon started negotiating with US trade officials in Washington, DC today, government officials in Thailand questioned whether he would be able to make any headway whatsoever.

Uthai is hamstrung by the fact he does not have a Cabinet mandate to make any commitments to the United States.

A source from Government House said that what Uthai could achieve from his self-initiated trip was to sound out the United States' attitude to possible trade retaliation against Thailand.

The US Trade Representative is expected to announce today that Thailand is on its priority foreign country (PFC) watchlist—a US concern over inadequate protection of intellectual property. [sentence as published]

"What we have to do next is negotiate to avoid US action against Thai exports," the source said.

In a letter which arrived via the Thai ambassador in Washington DC, US Trade Representative Mickey Kantor made four demands concerning Thailand's lack of protection for intellectual property rights.

The first was that the Thai Government makes a credible effort to sharply reduce piracy and put major pirates out of business.

It also asked for an amendment of Thai copyright and patent laws to conform with the draft agreement from the Uruguay Round of GATT talks which concerns the protection of intellectual property rights.

He also requested that Thailand give a specific commitment to change its patent laws and rules and regulations on "compulsory licensing" provisions, to prevent the abuse of the monopolistic power created by pharmaceutical patents.

It also suggested the Thai Government grant retroactive protection for drugs in the so-called "pipeline period."

The source said that the Thai Government is unlikely to sign the MOU [memorandum of understanding] as requested by the US, because it would force Thailand to make "too many" binding commitments on the issue.

"Once we have a bilateral agreement with the US through the signing of an MOU, Thailand will not be able to raise the issue at multilateral level when the problem arises," the source said.

Deputy Prime Minister Suphachai Phanitphakdi said yesterday that Thailand might consider amending the patent and copyright acts, and any amendment would follow General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade principles.

In reaction to the report that Washington will delay its decision on trade action against Thailand for three months, Suphachai said that during that period the Thai Government will ask the US to consider the privileges that US citizens currently enjoy under terms of the Treaty of Amity that exists between Thailand and the US.

"The Thai Government will ask the US to consider the long term relationship between the two countries. Instead of focusing on only two or three export items, the US should look into the issue at the macro-level, such as air service rights.

"Thailand also has the potential to become a US customer for aircraft and military weapons," he said.

IPR Crackdown Worries Industry; EC Mulls Action

BK0105033693 Bangkok THE NATION in English 1 May 93 pp b1, b3

[Text] The Thai Magnetic Tape and Record Association yesterday urged the government to stop plans aimed at curbing copyright violations that, at the same time, hurt legitimate producers of Thai music tapes, videos and compact discs.

Charoenchai Wungarayatham, the association's chairman, said the listing [of] music tapes, videotapes and compact discs as controlled goods and other measures planned by the government to satisfy the US demand for better protection of its copyrights should not be allowed to harm Thailand's own recorded music industry.

Last month, the government announced that distributors of all music tapes, videotapes and CDs will be required to label their products. In addition, the distributors will have to be registered with authorities concerned. Six laws on consumer protection, control of audio/video tapes, price-fixing and anti-monopoly, export and import of merchandise, copyrights, and accounting standards will also be strictly enforced in an effort to eliminate copyright violations.

But Charoenchai said that while the planned measures against pirates might not be effective, they will damage the local industry, hurting Thai artists, music programmes on radio and TV, tape and CD producers, and distributors and retailers not involved in copyright violations.

Only a small group of people are involved in the violation of copyright laws, but many more people legitimately involved in the local music and movie business will be adversely affected by the government's proposed measures, he said.

"Why do Thai producers have to suffer from the government's actions (against pirates)?" a statement released by the association said. "Our members have fully cooperated with the government. We have asked our members to stop distributing pirate tapes, and we delivered 250,000 counterfeit tape cassettes to the government to destroy. The government benefitted from our actions.

"The government should consider whether it has ever protected the Thai private sector's interest. Why should Thai recorded music also be affected by measures aimed at pleasing the United States?"

The association's statement also said that it is willing to cooperate with the government, but the government should listen more to private sector.

Meanwhile, the European Community is planning to ask the Thai Government to grant protection to EC intellectual property rights with the same scope and force as measures used to protect US copyrights.

A source from the International Federation of the Phonographic Industries (IFPI) said the EC will continue to monitor the Thai Government's actions to protect EC intellectual property rights until the one-year Exchange of Note between Thailand and the EC ends in October.

Thailand and the EC made the Exchange of Note in September, last year. The agreement requires Thailand to tackle the problem of copyright violations seriously and to reduce the number of pirate tapes by 50 per cent within six months of signing the Exchange of Note.

The EC recently informed the IFPT in Bangkok that an EC delegation would visit Thailand to investigate the Thai Government's actions against copyright crime, but later postponed the schedule because they wanted to await the results of negotiations between Thailand and the US Government.

The source said the Thai Government's raid on pirate tapes and the implementation of six laws concerning copyright protection would also benefit the EC since pirate tapes from there are not as common. Only 40 per cent of the pirate tapes sold in Thailand are copied from EC products, while the rest are copied from US music and videos.

In the past, the EC has called for a serious crackdown on copyright violations practised in Thailand. The community warned that if the Thai Government does not work to curb the violations, the EC could remove Thailand from its General System of Preference (GSP), which granted Thailand privileges worth US$3.05 billion in 1991 .

Yesterday, a public and private sector joint meeting on the issue agreed to control the prices of tape-producing machines using the anti monopoly and price control act.

Wararak Chansamat, deputy director general of the Intellectual Property Department, said after the meeting that the department will submit the proposal to Commerce Minister Uthai Phimchaichon for consideration.

The Commerce Ministry will have to define the term "tape-producing machines" to meet the definition in the anti-monopoly and price control act to avoid confusion in using the law, he said. To make the law practical and enforceable, the law will also require distributors of tape cassettes, video tape and CD to paste price labels on the products.

Once the machines are controlled price goods, the Commerce Ministry will be able to forecast the volume of locally produced tapes from the machines currently used. However, once the machines are controlled price goods, it will be difficult to import the machines.

Peter Gun, chairman of the International Federation of the Phonographic Thai Industries, said the prices of legal copyright tapes in the market have been reduced by 10 to 25 per cent from the previous price of Bt90-120 per cassette.

Pirate tapes are still available, but they are sold only at the back of the shops, he said. Dunng the first quarter of this year, the total sales of legal copyright tapes rose by only one per cent from 370,000 cassettes sold last year. The slow rise was because of the slow economy, Gun said.

The Thai Magnetic Tape and Record Association said in its statement that it appreciated the government's crackdown on pirate tapes, and it is willing to provide support [to] the government. However, the government should discuss details of price controls and pirate tape prevention measures with the private sector to reduce any adverse effects on the tape industry.

Suphawat Chiramonkhon, chairman of CVD Co, said the government should amend the copyright laws which still have a lot of loopholes and carry little punishment for offenders.

EC Awaiting Outcome of U.S. Dispute

BK0105041893 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 1 May 93 p 15

[Text] The trade dispute between Thailand and the European Community (EC) over copyright piracy is likely to end smoothly if Thailand can solve similar problems with the United States, according to an official of the international recording industry.

An official of the International Federation of Phonographic Industries (IFPI) who asked not to be named, said the EC will wait to see the outcome of negotiations between Thailand and the United States before deciding what to do next.

The source said an EC delegation has postponed a visit, originally scheduled for last week, to evaluate Thailand's progress in clamping down on piracy.

The postponement of the visit gives Thailand a good chance to show evidence of its crackdown on piracy, the source said.

Illegal audio and video tapes are disappearing from the Thai market as a result of the Thai Government's crackdown, but illegal products are still kept in movable stocks, he said.

The EC last year threatened to remove a tax concession under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) from Thailand, claiming that Thailand had illegally copied EC music and video tapes resulting in huge damage to EC industries.

Thailand in September last year promised the EC in writing that it would substantially cut piracy. The EC would monitor the performance of Thailand for a year.

The source said the criteria for the EC to assess the reduction in piracy will be determined by the quantity of legally made tapes sold by IFPI members.

The IFPI represents the phonographic industry around the world, including American and European companies.

IFPI (Thai group) President Peter Gun said the volume of legal tapes sold in the first three months of this year was 370,000, only 1 percent up from the same period of 1992. But it could not be confirmed whether piracy contributed to this because economic factors might be involved.

Mr Gun said the price of legal tapes has decreased by 10-20 percent on those applying last year.

Intellectual Property Department Deputy Director-General Wararak Chunsamat said companies in the industry have agreed to propose that tape production machinery should be controlled under the Price-Fixing and Anti-Monopoly Law. This move awaits only the Cabinet's approval.

Mr Wararak said the companies see this as the most effective way to control illegal production instead of trying to control the end products.

Mr Gun said the government may ask tape production machinery owners to report the location of their equipment.

In a related development, Deputy Prime Minister Suphachai Phanitphakdi said yesterday Thailand's removal from the list of foreign countries threatened with US sanctions will take some time to achieve because two laws will have to be amended.

But he added that delaying sanctions by three months is an achievement in itself.

Dr Suphachai was assuming that US Trade Representative would give Thailand a three-month reprieve in the announcement due out from Washington late last night or early this morning, Bangkok time.

He indicated that the Thai Government is willing to negotiate with Washington the amendment of copyright and patent law. But this will have to conform with international and scientific standards, he said.

In particular, Thailand will base its position in negotiations with the United States on the draft agreement of the Uruguay Round of General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade talks, he said.

One of the US demands is for Thailand to amend its copyright and patent laws to conform with the GATT draft, but some Thai officials and law experts say the laws already conform.

Dr Suphachai said that in the negotiations, Thailand will also have to emphasise to the United States that trade relations are healthy, with Thai purchases of US products such as aircraft and arms.

The relationship does not depend on two or three products, he added.

Premier Explains U.S. Move on Trade Retaliation

BK0205143193 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1200 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] Speaking to newsmen about reports that the United States has already applied Section 301 to Thailand, Prime Minister Chuan Likphai has said that there has been no trade retaliation and that the United States only placed Thailand on the watch list of priority foreign countries facing trade retaliation. The decision will be made within three months. The prime minister said that Thailand had demonstrated to the United States that it is serious about protecting intellectual property rights but that Thailand cannot yield to the United States if there is too much pressure from it:

[Begin Chuan recording] There are still more requirements other than the measures we have already taken. Those issues should be tackled later, and we are ready to negotiate if the United States has its reasons. We cannot accept requirements which are beyond what is the common practice of other countries but which the United States wants Thailand uniquely to follow. Deputy Prime Minister Suphachai is in charge of the matter, and, according to him, we must uphold international practice as the guideline. We are taking action against what is illegal, even though the United Stated may be demanding it of us. For instance, we are cracking down on copyright violations. This is not aimed at pleasing the United States. We want to put our system back on the right track. [end recording]

Uthai: U.S. Not To Retaliate on IPR Issue

BK0305074393 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] The United States has not adopted any trade retaliation measures against Thailand. Commerce Minister Uthai Phimchaichon is holding talks with U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor in Washington to find ways to remove Thailand from the Priority Foreign Country, or PFC, list. Mickey Kantor has announced that Thailand should be kept on the PFC list. The commerce minister said the United States has not decided to retaliate against Thailand because it has seen the Thai Government's determination and sincerity in solving the intellectual property rights violation problem seriously and effectively. Thailand could be adversely affected if there were retaliation measures against it. The commerce minister said he is trying to find ways to solve the problem to protect national interest as much as possible. He said he has held talks with U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor and U.S. Commerce Secretary Ronald Brown. He will also try to remove Thailand from the PFC list as soon as possible to prevent any adverse repercussions on the Thai economy.

'Source' Confident of Removal From PFC List

BK0305080593 Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 3 May 93 p 7

[Text] Referring to fear that Commerce Minister Uthai Phimchaichon, who has been given full authority to take any action in his negotiations on the copyright issue in Washington, might sign a memorandum of understanding [MOU] with the United States, a Commerce Ministry source said that he is confident that Thailand has a good enough way out of the copyright issue without having to sign it. However, the source noted that countries which have copyright problem with the United States, including the Philippines, have had to sign an MOU.

The source said a good way out for Thailand is for the commerce minister to explain Thailand's issuance of six regulations to enforce the law against copyright counterfeiters. The minister will point out to the U.S. trade representative and the private sector that the issuance of the regulations for the agencies concerned to earnestly suppress copyright violators was done by the Prime Minister's Office and could not be revoked at whim. For this reason, it would be meaningless to sign an MOU because signing such document merely amounts to promising to carry out the pledge given to the United States. Because Thai law will have enforcement power in itself, an MOU would be meaningless.

The source also believed there would be no problem with the patent issue. The United States already knew that Thailand is in the process of amending the pertinent law.

The U.S. fear that the formation of the Thai Pharmaceutical Patent Committee would result in discrimination against U.S. drugs imported by U.S. drug companies should be allayed by Thailand's allowing U.S. representatives to be members of the joint committee. Therefore, it is unlikely that the United States will induce Thailand to sign an MOU on the pharmaceutical issue.

The same source is confident that due to extensive preparations, the commerce minister and his delegation will be successful in their current trip to the United States to try to remove Thailand from the Priority Foreign Country [PFC] list.

Worse Problems Foreseen Without U.S. Trade Leniency

BK0305101393 Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai 3 May 93 p 7

[Economic team's article: "The United States Will Suffer if Thailand Collapses"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The letter from U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor to the Thai Government calling for continuous and serious suppression of copyright violations and amendments to the Thai Copyright and Patent Laws clearly indicates the U.S. determination to impose heavy and uncompromising pressure on Thailand to push the latter to sign a memorandum of understanding under which the Thai Government will be forced to find effective measures to solve the problem within a fixed period of time. As a result, future Thai governments will also be tied to this inflexible commitment. The earlier signing of the memorandums of understanding with the United States by the Philippines, China, and Taiwan has proved that the U.S. Government never trusted other countries in this regard and hence "forced" those countries to conclude the accords.

As for the Thai Government, such action by the United States is totally "unacceptable" because there are several limitations involved. The Thai Government is unable to force the parliament to pass laws by its own will or as pressured by foreign countries.

However, it should not be assumed that the Thai Government is lethargic and insincere in solving the problem. Thailand and the United States should cooperate in a friendly manner in finding the solution. The Thai people detest all acts of intimidation.

The United States is well aware of the fact that Thailand, judging from its economic conditions, is in no position to bicker or compete with a major power like the United States.

Apart from numerous domestic economic difficulties, Thailand has over 10 million people living in poverty. The situation is aggravating especially in the northeastern region where the average personal income is nine times lower than that in the central region. Millions of people in the northeast engage in producing goods for export to different countries including the United States. U.S. trade retaliation against Thailand will directly plunge these people out of their jobs and create an additional heavy burden on the Thai Government.

Regarding the humanitarian front, Thailand used to shelter and feed refugees from the protracted wars in Indochina. Until now, no country has ever shouldered such a heavy burden. Although the refugees have now returned home, Thailand is not yet free from the problem as long as the possibility of the outbreak of fighting still looms in the neighboring countries.

Most importantly, The United States, the leader of the free world, has been propagating a free trade policy. It should realize how hard Thailand, a country that practices free trade and is now ruled by a democratic government, has been fighting corruption.

The copyright violation problem is in fact derived from the corruption problem of the past. If Thailand is unable to completely suppress and prevent copyright violations, it will be punished by the United States.

It will be a pity if the present government, known for its clean record, does not maintain its political stability because of U.S. trade retaliation. If that is the case, the United States is bound to encounter the same old, if not worse, problem because copyright violations will not be totally suppressed. Meanwhile, Thailand's overall economy will be greatly damaged. These will be the consequences of the excessive demands put forth by the United States.

We hope that the United States will reconsider this matter thoroughly and is willing to deal with Thailand as a friend so we can help each other in both trade and politics.

This is because if Thailand "collapses" the United States will certainly "suffer", too.

Shells From Cambodia Hit Thai Territory

BK3004135093 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1200 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Lieutenant General Sanan Khachonklam, chief of the center for coordinating repatriation of Cambodian refugees, said the repatriation of refugees will be completed today and the Cambodian refugee centers will be closed by 1 May.

This afternoon, the Burapha Force reported that 10 rounds of 82-mm mortar were fired into Thai territory at Ban Wangmon and Ban Sano Noi, Tambon Thakham, Aranyaprathet District, Prachin Buri Province. Most of the rounds landed in the jungle and on farmland, while some landed behind the Poipet railway station in Cambodia. There were no casualties. However, Cambodians who were near the Thai border tried to flee across the border. They were pushed back by the Burapha Force soldiers.

The shelling was reportedly committed by the Khmer Rouge to create a certain situation as the elections approach.

Troops Ready To Retaliate in Future

BK0205051293 Bangkok THE NATION in English 2 May 93 p A2

[Text] Thai troops are ready to strike back if further spillovers from the fighting between Cambodian warring factions affect Thai villagers, a senior army officer said yesterday.

Thai soldiers are on alert and confident in their ability to counter any activities that would inflict property losses or casualties on residents in border villages, said the commander of the task force for development of border areas, Col Itsara Watcharaprathip.

The officer's statement came one day after 12 stray rockets from Cambodia landed near two Thai border villages in Prachin Buri's Aranyaprathet district as a result of a battle between Phnom Penh troops and the Khmer Rouge.

Thai soldiers and United Nations peacekeepers in Cambodia concluded after inspecting the border areas yesterday that the rockets that fell on the Thai side were the Chinese-made 75-mm type.

The inspectors confirmed that the rockets were fired by the Khmer Rouge from its base in Poipet against about 50 Phnom Penh troops who were approaching them with two 120-mm artillery pieces.

Prime Minister Chuan Likphai yesterday said he had received a report on the incident and local officials were looking into it.

Shelling Intended To Disrupt Cambodian Polls

BK0205155693 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1200 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] Recent shellings in the direction of Poipet market in Banteay Meanchey by the Khmer Rouge forces have caused confusion among the Cambodian and Thai border people. The Burapha Task Force has been mapping out security measures to maintain law and order, and one of these measures could be the temporary closing of the border.

In coordination with the UN forces in Cambodia, the unit interviewed an arrested Khmer Rouge soldier, (Mi Thi), attached to the 7th Division with its stronghold in (Ban Khla Nguap), opposite Tambon Khlong Nam Sai, in Prachin Buri Province of Thailand. The soldier admitted that Poipet was the target of the recent mortar shelling, but it was saved because of miscalculations by soldiers. He said the Khmer Rouge aimed at Poipet because they wanted to destroy the economy and sabotage the election in Cambodia scheduled late this month.

Officers Comment on Border Situation

BK0305095393 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] Defense Minister General Wichit Sukmak talked to newsmen today about the situation in Cambodia, which could affect Thai Army engineers repairing highways in that country. He said the Defense Ministry, the Foreign Ministry, and the National Security Council will evaluate the seriousness of the situation in Cambodia and whether the army engineers should continue with their operations. The highway repair mission has been completed. The defense minister said he has not received a report regarding the impact of the fighting in Cambodia on Thai army engineers, but noted that the engineers have effectively carried out their assigned mission.

The defense minister said Thai Army engineers are capable of protecting themselves as necessary, but they do not want to have to fight. Their main mission, as assigned by the Thai Government, is to assist the United Nations to repair highways in Cambodia. In any event, if the situation puts them in danger they are capable of defending themselves.

Talking about the effect on Thailand of the fighting in Cambodia, such as mortar shelling, the defense minister said soldiers along the border already have measures to handle such a situation. Any foreign soldiers intruding into Thailand will be pushed back.

Meanwhile, Army Commander General Wimon Wongwanit said local Thai soldiers have been given instructions about the fighting in Poipet. They are to comply with UN operational regulations, particularly in the suppression of UN-designated contraband. Regarding fighting in Cambodia which affects Thailand, soldiers will take action only when the situation is serious and affects border security. The Army commander said there are limits concerning what soldiers can do.

Vietnam

Tran Van Quang on Tet Offensive in Tri Thien-Hue

932E0057A Hanoi TAP CHI QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese Jan 88 pp 27-32, 63

[Article by Senior Lieutenant General Tran Van Quang, former secretary of the party committee and commander of the Tri-Thien Military Region: "On the Direction of the 1968 Spring Offensive and Uprising in Tri Thien-Hue"]

[Text] Exactly 20 years ago (January 1968), the Army and people of South Vietnam, under the leadership of the party Central Committee, launched "concerted offensives and uprisings" against nearly all U.S.-puppet cities, towns, military bases, and administration agencies throughout South Vietnam. It was a major event, a turning point in the anti-U.S. war of resistance for national salvation.

The Tri Thien-Hue Theater (including the Route 9 Front under the charge of main-force troops and the Tri Thien-Hue Front of the local people's war) was one of the two principal theaters of operations of these general offensives and uprisings (the Eastern Nam Bo Theater, including Saigon, was the first principal theater); Hue City was one of the three main targets of the general offensives and uprisings (Saigon-Hue-Danang).

The tasks of the Tri Thien-Hue Army and people were to mount concerted offensives and uprisings; to attack and seize Hue City, various towns and townships...; to set up revolutionary administrations; and to stand ready to strike at counterattacking enemy forces..., thereby creating proper conditions for us to advance toward achieving decisive victory. The tasks of the Route 9 Front were to attract and annihilate enemy forces to enable the entire South Vietnam to launch a general offensive and uprising, and, when conditions permitted, to breach a section of the enemy defense line, thus paving the way for us to advance to the South.

In 25 days and nights (from the night of 31 January to 25 February 1968), and if the phase of diversionary combat activities and isolating enemy forces was also included, then in nearly two months (from 7 January to 25 February), the Army and people of Tri Thien-Hue (excluding the Route 9 Front), with a smaller force than the enemy's, had fought courageously and fiercely, winning great victories:

—They annihilated an important component of the enemy's vital strength and war means (the number of enemies killed, captured, or giving themselves up totalled around 25,000 including nearly 8,000 Americans); shot down or destroyed more than 200 aircraft of various kinds; and set ablaze or wrecked almost 500 military vehicles, more than 40 ships and motorboats, 40 artillery guns.... They attacked nearly all military organs, positions, posts, and logistic bases of the enemy, severed communications, occupied most of Hue, and fought in the city for a long period of time (25 days and nights).

—They annihilated and disintegrated most of the puppet administration and its coercive forces (including the province chief's office and the representation of the central puppet administration); more than 40 provincial services and offices, civil guard and popular force groups, and public security and police units. They seized two prisons and set free more than 1,000 revolutionary cadres and combatants detained by the enemy. During the same period, the people of Hue, the puppet administration's second most important urban center, seized control of almost all the city. The liberated rural areas were expanded to include four-fifths of the hamlets and three-fourths of the population. Of the total 800,000 local people, 530,000 rose up to participate in the resistance in many forms such as giving support to soldiers, attacking the enemy and breaking up his coercive control, building the administration....

—They fought while mobilizing the masses and building up forces. Tens of thousands of youths joined the revolutionary Armed Forces; district local forces and village, hamlet, and city block guerrilla forces rapidly increased. Administrations were set up in nearly all liberated villages and hamlets, as were district and provincial people's committees. A number of progressive personages in the Hue City left for the resistance base area to found the Alliance of National Democratic and Peace Forces.

The enemy himself had to admit: "The assault on Hue was regarded as one of the heaviest attacks that were beyond imagination. For this reason, it caused a tremendous shock to the local administrations at all levels, which were strongly shaken up when they saw that the majority of the top leaders of the puppet administration had been killed." [Footnote 1] [Quotation from the book entitled: "The 1968 Year of The Monkey General Offensive and General Insurrection of the Vietnamese Communists" by several Saigon puppet Army generals.]

This victory made an important contribution to the 1968 Spring General Offensive and Uprising of all South Vietnam and of the entire country, dealing a decisive blow that bankrupted the U.S. imperialists' "local war" strategy, shook their will for aggression, and forced them to deescalate the war, to halt the bombing of North Vietnam, to begin the process of withdrawing their troops from South Vietnam, and to agree to hold talks with us in Paris. It constituted a historic milestone in the anti—U.S. war of resistance for national salvation of our Army and people in both the North and the South.

The glorious victories of all South Vietnam as well as of Tri Thien-Hue in the Spring of 1968 were attributable first of all to the correct and creative policy of the central echelon, which knew how to highly develop the offensive spirit, to discern the enemy's weaknesses in both the military and political domains, on the battlefield as well as in the United States, to choose the right direction for attacks on enemy-held cities and bases, and to work out a unified plan for simultaneous offensives and uprisings in all South Vietnam.

In the Tri Thien-Hue Front in particular, the party committee and command of the Tri-Thien Military Region displayed good points in leadership, guidance, and command. They had intended and prepared to attack Hue City and enemy logistic bases for a long time (since around the end of 1966). While stepping up fighting, they had actively prepared the battlefield, created an advantageous disposition, and readied on-the-spot armed and political forces in a relatively thorough fashion before embarking on the offensive. From the party committee and command of the Tri-Thien Military Region on down to the contingent of military, political, and commanding cadres and party committee echelons, all showed high resolve, a strict sense of discipline, and a sense of executing orders resolutely and thoroughly. They formulated plans to prepare the battlefields meticulously; chose rational combat tactics in the initial phase; skillfully carried out political mobilization; and satisfactorily maintained secrecy. All the cadres and combatants of the Armed Forces and political forces, revolutionary bases, and large sections of the masses heartily responded to the appeal of the party and the National Liberation Front by braving hardships and sacrifices and courageously and intelligently fulfilling all tasks. Coordination with the Route 9 Front and the theaters in friendly countries, the assistance given by Group 559, and the guidance provided by upper-level organs (the General Staff, the General Political Department...) were also of decisive significance to the victories of the 1968 Spring offensive and uprising in Tri Thien-Hue.

Marked by our seizing and holding Hue City for 25 days and nights, the victory of the offensive and uprising in Hue in early 1968 was a great inspiration to our Army and people in all theaters of operations. It contributed to strongly shaking up the U.S.-puppet ringleaders and further enhanced the fine tradition of "Gallantry, Staunchness, Offensive, and Uprising" of Tri Thien-Hue.

However, despite these very great successes, in Tri Thien-Hue as well as in all South Vietnam, the offensives and uprisings failed to meet the requirement of "wresting back all power and putting it in the hands of the people." During, and especially after the Tet of the Year of the Monkey offensive and uprising in Tri Thien-Hue, the enemy counterattacked very fiercely, seriously depleting our political and Armed Forces at the grassroots level. Not only did the enemy retake the Hue but also occupy the countryside and fringe areas and attack the mountain region. Our people's war disposition in Tri Thien was temporarily lost, causing us great difficulties throughout the two-year period from mid-1968 to mid-1970. Coupled with the temporary difficult situation facing us in the entire theater of South Vietnam at the time, that consequence in Tri Thien somewhat prompted the enemy to prolong the Paris talks in the hope of regaining the initiative, to attack Cambodia, and then to launch an offensive on Route 9 and in Southern Laos.

Of course, although the battlefield difficulties we encountered after the Spring of 1968 were great, they could in no way eclipse the glorious victories of the Tet of the Year of the Monkey offensives and uprisings throughout South Vietnam as well as in Tri Thien-Hue. But, as the Resolution of the 21st Plenum of the Party Central Committee (held in October 1973), the scientific conference held by the Ministry of National Defense (in March 1986) to review various campaigns, and many other documents and conferences have clearly pointed out, these difficulties and losses could have been avoided or limited if we had set appropriate requirements or promptly changed our operational formulas to make them more flexible and suitable to the situation at the time.

In this article, I would like to present some of my reflections on the guidance given by the party committee and command of the Tri Thien-Hue Military Region during the offensive and uprising in Tri Thien-Hue in the hope of contributing some experience to the general review of the Tri Thien-Hue Campaign.

1. The policy of carrying the war to the cities, towns, and townships and selecting Hue City as the main target of the offensive was correct; but the requirement of wresting back all power and putting it in the people's hands was not in accord with the balance of forces between the enemy and us on the battlefield at the time.

We all know that, following the debacle of his two strategic counteroffensives (in the 1965-1966 and 1966-1967 dry seasons), the enemy had showed many weaknesses, his forces were scattered, his "search-and-destroy" and "pacification" strategies were fruitless, and his cities and rear bases were all exposed. On our side, both our forces and disposition had developed, and the masses felt hatred for the enemy while showing confidence in our capability to defeat him. In Tri Thien-Hue in particular, in the wake of our successive victories in 1967, we were in a very advantageous position to attack the enemy in the Hue City and in his rear bases. However, the choice of Hue as the main target of attack and our capability to directly strike at the enemy's nerve center did not mean that conditions were already ripe for us to mount a general offensive and a general insurrection to liberate Hue and wrest back all power and put it in the hands of the people. Morale and surprise were extremely important factors. But destruction of the enemy's vital strength, especially his military forces and main-force blocks, was still the most decisive factor. It was necessary to crush not only the enemy's will for aggression but also his capability to resist. Only by annihilating and disintegrating the bulk of the enemy's vital strength would we be able to ensure the total liberation of Tri Thien-Hue and to wrest back all power and put it in the hands of the people. That was what the resolution of the 21st plenum of the party Central Committee had clearly pointed out: "... We had been subjective in assessing the situation... and we had set requirements that were not really consistent with the actual situation at that juncture."

So, what should our requirements have been at the time? In the Tri Thien-Hue Theater, on the basis of the general situation and specific situation then, we should have advocated continually attacking the enemy both militarily and politically, strongly striking at his rear, his bases, and his communications routes, and selecting the cities and the enemy's rear area as the targets of attack in order to destroy his vital strength, including his high-level vital strength (such as enemy command posts and military and political officers) and war means. We should have upset the enemy's force deployment; turned his rear into a battlefield; liberated district capitals and townships; established a position from which to exert control at different levels in a number of areas in the cities, thus providing a basis for expanding and consolidating the liberated zone—including the countryside and fringe areas—developing our military and political forces, and establishing a position from which to annihilate even more enemy forces, to defeat their two-pronged strategy, to continue tipping the balance of forces in our favor, and to create conditions for launching a general offensive or mounting a general assault and a general insurrection when conditions were ripe.

The principle of offensive called for continual, widespread, active, and flexible operations, with destruction of the enemy being considered as the main task, and for fighting while building, for attacking the enemy while consolidating our commanding position, and for striking at the enemy in the cities while battling enemy counterattacks outside them. That was the spirit of the April 1967 Resolution of the Political Bureau and also the position of the Tri Thien Military Region's party committee at the October 1967 conference. If Tri Thien had implemented that policy, our victories could have been greater and our losses and difficulties could have been limited. I think that other theaters also faced the same problem.

2. The battlefields were carefully prepared in terms of both disposition and on-the-spot forces, the tactics applied at the beginning were appropriate, and there was satisfactory coordination between attack and insurrection; but preparations were made according to a final plan, and the direction of struggle was not timely shifted when the situation had changed.

Owing to our plan to carry the war to the cities at an early date and our intention to prepare and train for an attack on the cities, which coincided with the central echelon's strategic policy..., battlefield preparations were made urgently and carefully in all respects, including both battle disposition and on-the-spot forces, both military and political forces, especially elite troop units. The combat tactics applied at the beginning and in the early days were appropriate as they were secret, unexpected, and simultaneous, permitting coordination between fighting in and outside the cities, between attacks and insurrection in both the cities and the countryside..., thereby creating a very great force for us to attack the enemy.

However, because of our subjective and mechanical attitude in studying the requirements of the general offensive and general insurrection, we made preparations according to a single plan based on the assumption that the offensive would be successful and decisive and power would be completely wrested back; thus, no backup plans were adopted to deal with different situations according to the three possibilities as instructed by the Ministry of National Defense. Our requirements were high and our plan was ambitious, but we had neither on-the-spot reserves nor sufficient conditions for using the main-force troops sent in by the Ministry of National Defense. In reality, our attack plan as well as our combat formation was only fit for a raid on the cities; there was no plan for a large-scale offensive campaign matching our strategic requirements and the enemy forces present in the local theater and those moving in from other theaters. It is precisely because of this that, after four to five days of successful attacks, we had to cope with the enemy in a passive manner when he counterattacked. Not only did we fail to wipe out counterattacking enemy units one by one but our forces were also worn out; not only were we unable to develop our initial successes but we also faced difficulties and suffered losses as time went by. In the process of directing combat activities, we failed to firmly control our troops as we did at the beginning, and to timely alter our tactics to suit them to the changing situation. Especially, after one week of fighting, when we realized that we could not seize all Hue City and when a general offensive and a general insurrection were no longer possible, we should have, on the one hand, executed the Ministry of National Defense order to continue fighting in order to coordinate with other theaters, and should have, on the other hand, promptly changed our combat formulas and tactics. Instead, we failed to adopt new, appropriate decisions, positions, and measures. At the time, the most rational thing for us to do should have been reorganizing our forces, leaving just a component to persistently fight the enemy in the city, and using the bulk of our forces to continue broadening our position in the countryside, to seize enemy posts and district capitals, to battle counterattacking enemy forces on the city's perimeter, to shift the masses' struggle to a different position under appropriate forms, to protect revolutionary bases, and to prepare to cope with enemy mopping-up and land-grabbing operations in the countryside.

It is also necessary to deal with the question of whether it was right or wrong to have prolonged the fight in Hue City for 25 days and nights. If we took into consideration the requirements of the Tri Thien-Hue Theater alone, then it was unnecessary and even wrong to have prolonged the fight in the city. But, at that juncture, Tri Thien-Hue had two tasks, namely, to fight the enemy while attracting enemy forces so that we could continue attacking in other theaters; for this reason, prolonging the fight in Hue City for 25 days and nights was the right, necessary thing to do, because it met the general requirements and showed our sense of organization, discipline, order execution, and battlefield coordination.

3. We attached special importance to developing the people's war in localities, but failed to fully understand the role of main-force troops in coordinating with the local people's war to fulfill the strategically significant tasks of the campaign.

In theory as well as in strategy, no one in the party committee and command of the Tri-Thien Military Region had ever belittled the role of main-force corps in the offensive. But, in reality and in Tri Thien-Hue, we had concentrated the bulk of our strength on building and developing the combat disposition and forces of the people's war in our localities. But we had failed to fully realize the significance—and had even made light—of the all-around preparations necessary for closely combining the people's war in localities with the combat operations of main-force corps to fulfill our tasks in a strategically significant direction of attack. The truth is that there were two forces in the Tri Thien-Hue Theater:

the main-force block directly subordinate to the Ministry of National Defense on Route 9 (the B5 Front) and the local forces in the area between Southern Quang Tri and Northern Hai Van (the B4 Front). Both forces were directly subordinate to the high command and had the tasks of destroying the enemy, developing the people's war, liberating Tri Thien-Hue, and preventing the enemy from launching an attack on the area north of the provisional line of demarcation. However, the two forces were stationed in two different directions and had their own separate commands. For this reason, we had made light of the need to study and propose a most suitable use of main-force troops to maximize their effectiveness, and to prepare the battlefields to create proper conditions for main-force troops to conduct large-scale joint combat operations. Although the Tri Thien-Hue Military Region had earlier raised the question of studying and resolving this issue, it failed to work actively and systematically when bringing it up with the upper echelons. The chief cause of this was the lack of a strong sense of combining local forces with the main forces; and there was also the tendency to depend on friendly units and the upper echelons. This error in perception and thinking had affected battlefield preparations in the mountain region of Tri Thien, which resulted in a lack of roads for motor vehicles, a lack of jumping-off positions for large-scale combined forces, a lack of material and technical reserves.... Therefore, in the final days of the Tet of the Year of the Monkey offensive and uprising in Tri Thien-Hue, when the Ministry of National Defense intended to send main-force reinforcements to Southern Quang Tri, the Tri-Thien Military Region was unable to receive them. By 1972, this shortcoming had been overcome, and the theater was satisfactorily organized and the main forces and local forces were placed under unified command. This was one of the favorable conditions enabling us to win great victories in the Spring of 1975, to liberate Tri Thien-Hue, and to proceed triumphantly toward Danang.

The reflections on the 1968 spring general offensive and concerted uprisings, the problems concerning them, and the experience derived from them... such as the appraisal of enemy forces and ours, the application of the law of war and insurrection, the formulation of strategic plans and provision of strategic guidance commensurate with requirements, the execution of orders in each theater, the provision of campaign and tactical guidance... must continue to be studied. These issues have been initially and partially clarified in various documents of the party and of the scientific conference held by the Ministry of National Defense to review the various campaigns. This article deals with only a limited number of principal issues concerning the Tri Thien-Hue Theater within the confines of the people's war in localities.

Concerning Tri Thien in particular and all the theater as a whole at that juncture, there was another important issue, namely, the **leadership and command style**. Broad vision and early detection of the new factors favorable to us are an extremely important requirement, but being on the alert to clearly see our weaknesses and to correctly and comprehensively assess the balance of forces of both sides on the battlefield in order to determine appropriate formulas, measures, and requirements is also very important. Thoroughly understanding the requirements of one's tasks and resolutely executing the orders of the upper echelons are a quality and virtue of an executor, but faithfully and persistently reporting the actual situation on the battlefield, proposing optimal plans, listening to the opinions of the lower echelons even though these opinions do not accord with one's initial views, "decanting troubled water and filtering fresh water," and courageously assuming the responsibility to put forward well-founded resolutions are also a qualitative and ethical requirement of a commander.

In the 1968 spring general offensive and uprising and in a number of other cases, we, the Tri Thien Military Region Command, failed to harmoniously combine courage, the will for offensive, and the sense of thoroughgoing service with the responsibility to faithfully report objective realities when the situation changes. A concrete example is, toward the end of the offensive and uprising, many lower-level cadres had reported the difficult actual situation and proposed different solutions, but we, the Military Region Command, failed to really listen to these opinions and thoroughly study them. At the same time, we did not dare to report to the upper echelons those suggestions that were practical. That shortcoming had also contributed to the policy of continuing to launch one wave of general attacks and general insurrections after another without "making a timely reassessment of the situation and without adopting a policy aimed at changing the direction" of operations, as the resolution of the 21st plenum of the party Central Committee remarked.

Australia

Japan's Miyazawa Leaves for New Zealand

BK0105074293 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] Japan's prime minister, Kiichi Miyazawa, has left Australia for New Zealand after a short visit in which he said that Australia should work with Japan to foster free trade. He made the remark after talks with his local counterpart, Paul Keating, but refused to grant Australia rights for greater access to his own market.

Earlier, he reaffirmed that Japanese peacekeeping troops would stay in Cambodia despite the growing military dangers. Mr. Miyazawa said the framework of the United Nations peace agreement had not unravelled or b? destroyed.

The Japanese prime minister finished his two-day visit to the capital, Canberra, by laying a wreath at the War Memorial.

Keating Sends Condolences on Premadasa Assassination

BK0205094093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0424 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] Canberra, May 2 (AFP)—Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating sent a letter of condolence Sunday to the acting president of Sri Lanka following the assassination of President Ranasinghe Premadasa.

In a letter to Prime Minister Dingiri Banda Wijetunga, who has taken over the post, Keating said Australia deplored the use of violence as a means of political expression.

Premadasa and at least 17 others, including his personal bodyguards, were killed Saturday when a man set off explosives strapped to his body in the midst of the president's entourage during May Day celebrations in Colombo.

"I would like to extend to you and the people of Sri Lanka my deepest personal condolences, and those of the Australian Government and people, on the tragic death of President Premadasa," Keating said.

"Mr. Premadasa's enduring contribution to the development of Sri Lanka will be long remembered," he said, adding: "Australians join with the majority of the Sri Lankan people in deploring the use of violence as a means of political expression.

"We hope that you, Mr. Acting President, with the government and people of Sri Lanka, will be able to continue the search for a peaceful resolution of Sri Lanka's communal problems," Keating said.

He also offered the condolences of the people to Premadasa's widow and children, as well as the families of others killed in the bomb attack.

New Zealand

Reportage on Japanese Premier's Visit

Miyazawa Arrives 1 May

OW0105051493 Tokyo KYODO in English 447 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] Auckland, May 1 KYODO—Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa arrived in Auckland, the capital of New Zealand, on Saturday for talks with New Zealand Prime Minister James Bolger.

Miyazawa is the first Japanese government head to visit the Pacific island nation since former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone traveled there in 1985.

Miyazawa and Bolger will meet later in the day to discuss a variety of political and economic issues, Japanese officials said.

Prior to his visit to New Zealand, Miyazawa visited Canberra, the capital of Australia, and met with Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating.

In their Friday meeting, the two leaders agreed to oppose a U.S. proposal to set numerical, sector-by-sector targets for bilateral trade which could lead to "managed trade," the officials said.

Miyazawa, who left Japan on Thursday [29 April], is scheduled to return home Sunday [2 May].

Miyazawa, Bolger Oppose Managed Trade

OW0105105193 Tokyo KYODO in English 1021 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] Auckland, May 1 KYODO—Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and his New Zealand Counterpart James Bolger agreed Saturday to oppose moves of managed trade, Japanese officials said.

The two leaders agreed to oppose setting numerical targets in bilateral trade sectors, the officials said.

During a summit meeting between Miyazawa and U.S. President Bill Clinton in mid-April in Washington, the United States sought numerical targets to reduce its trade surplus with Japan.

Bolger reportedly called on Japan to open its rice market saying he supports a proposal by Arthur Dunkel, chief of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, calling for conversion of all nontariff barriers into tariffs without exception.

Miyazawa, who arrived here earlier in the day, is the first Japanese Government head to visit the Pacific island nation since former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone traveled here in 1985.

Prior to his visit to New Zealand, Miyazawa visited Canberra, the capital of Australia, and met with Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating.

Miyazawa, who left Japan on Thursday, is scheduled to return home Sunday [2 May].

Miyazawa Reacts 'Coolly' to U.S. Warning

OW0105110193 Tokyo KYODO in English 1040 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] Auckland, May 1 KYODO—Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa reacted coolly Saturday to a warning from Washington for Japan to grant U.S. companies greater access to public works projects or face retaliatory action. Miyazawa expressed his belief that the issue will be solved through bilateral negotiations because it is based on U.S. misunderstanding. The U.S. administration, accusing Japan of discriminating against U.S. companies seeking contracts for public works, said it may take retaliatory action unless Japan improves the situation within a 60-day period, according to reports from Washington. Miyazawa said he did not understand what the United States was talking about, adding that the administration of President Bill Clinton apparently was not informed of the outcome of previous negotiations between the two countries. Miyazawa said he did not regard the latest episode as a sign of intensifying trade friction between the two nations. The prime minister flew into Auckland earlier Saturday on the last leg of a swing through Australia and New Zealand. On domestic issues, Miyazawa ruled out any chance of the current session of the Diet being extended to discuss a supplementary budget designed to shore up the economy. The extra budget will be a follow up to a record 13.2 trillion yen pump-priming package announced last month. As for political reform, Miyazawa said more time is needed to discuss various plans. He said he will not respond to calls for a summit with heads of opposition parties, saying there are no particular topics of discussion because proposals for political reforms are being debated at committee levels. Miyazawa criticized a proposal for an election system combining a single-slate constituency formula and proportionate representation as hard to understand. The combination system was put forward by a private political reform study group. The single-seat constituency system proposed by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party is better, he said.

Comments on Country's Trade Surplus

BK0105123093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1205 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] AUCKLAND, May 1 (AFP)—Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa hailed New Zealand Saturday as one of the few countries in the world which enjoys a trade surplus with Japan. Miyazawa made the comment at a dinner with his New Zealand counterpart Jim Bolger following talks between the two.

Miyazawa arrived here Saturday from Canberra and flies back to Tokyo Sunday [2 May].

He said he was impressed by New Zealand's determination to enhance its ties with Asia, and valued its position as a "mature democracy" in the region. The two countries, he said, had greatly expanded their relationship.

"In trade, the competitiveness of New Zealand's products makes New Zealand one of the few countries which enjoys a trade surplus with Japan," he said.

In 1992 New Zealand exported goods worth around 2.6 billion N.Z. dollars (1.4 billion dollars U.S.), around 200 million dollars (108 million dollars) more than it imported from Japan.

Earlier at a press conference Bolger said talks with Miyazawa had touched on a number of world trade issues, as well as the situations in Cambodia, Bosnia, North Korea and Russia.

Prior to his visit Japanese officials made much of the fact that Miyazawa was consulting with Australia and New Zealand prior to next month's Group of Seven (G7) summit in Tokyo. It was made clear here that Miyazawa saw himself as a spokesman for the Asia-Pacific region, including Australia and New Zealand.

On Saturday Bolger said it was significant that Tokyo now saw itself as a regional spokesman.

"I don't in anyway under-estimate the significance of Japan as the Asian member of the G7," he said.

In his speech Bolger painted an image of Japan and New Zealand as pillars.

"Japan at one end of the West Pacific, New Zealand with Australia at the other, pillars of shared interests and values spanning the Pacific," Bolger said.

Miyazawa, Bolger Back Early GATT Conclusion

OW0105135393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1320 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] Auckland, May 1 KYODO—Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and his New Zealand counterpart James Bolger agreed Saturday [1 May] on the necessity of an early conclusion of the Uruguay round global trade talks, Japanese officials said.

The two leaders reached the agreement in view of maintaining and strengthening a multilateral trade system, the officials said.

Miyazawa and Bolger agreed that a U.S. proposal to set numerical, sector-by-sector targets for bilateral trade is against the principles of free trade, the officials said.

During a summit meeting between Miyazawa and U.S. President Bill Clinton in mid-April in Washington, the United States sought numerical targets to cut its trade deficit with Japan.

Bolger impliCitly urged Japan to open its rice market, saying he supports a proposal by Arthur Dunkel, chief of the GATT, calling for conversion of all nontariff barriers into tariffs without exception.

Miyazawa expressed reluctance to open the rice market, saying the rice issue is a difficult issue in Japan.

On bilateral issues, Miyazawa and Bolger agreed to promote mutual investments in each country.

Miyazawa also expressed Japan's willingness to seek solutions to Japan's quarantine inspection of New Zealand apples, saying technical experts have begun considering the issue.

New Zealand has asked Japan to improve its system of inspection which has hampered increased exports to Japan.

The two leaders also agreed to support efforts by the United Nations to hold safe and fair general elections in Cambodia May 23-8 and to strengthen the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum, the officials said.

Miyazawa is the first Japanese Government head to visit the Pacific island nation since former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone traveled here in 1985.

Before arriving in New Zealand, Miyazawa visited Canberra, the capital of Australia, to hold talks with Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating.

Miyazawa, who left Japan on Thursday, is scheduled to return home Sunday.

Miyazawa Sends Condolences to Sri Lanka

OW0105152393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1449 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] Auckland, May 2 KYODO—Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa offered condolences Sunday over the assassination of Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa.

Miyazawa, who arrived here Saturday for a two-day official visit, called the Sri Lankan leader's death a great loss.

He said Premadasa had achieved success in building a nation through economic liberalization policies and that the Sri Lankan leader made a "great contribution" to promoting relations between Japan and Sri Lanka.

Premadasa was killed by a bomb attack in Colombo on Saturday while leading a May Day rally.

Departs for Tokyo 2 May

OW0205010693 Tokyo KYODO in English 2357 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] Auckland, May 2 KYODO—Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa left Auckland for Japan on Sunday [2 May] after a four-day visit to Australia and New Zealand.

In separate summit talks with New Zealand Prime Minister James Bolger on Saturday [1 May] and Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating in Canberra on Friday [30 April], Miyazawa agreed with both on the necessity of an early conclusion of the Uruguay round of global trade talks. Miyazawa's talks with Keating and Bolger also included the landmark elections this month in Cambodia, and other regional and bilateral issues. Miyazawa was the first Japanese Government head to visit New Zealand since former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone in 1985.

Visit Scores 'Big Political Points'

BK0205041493 Hong Kong AFP in English 0148 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] Auckland, May 2 (AFP)—Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa left here Sunday after an 18-hour visit designed to ensure New Zealand's allegiance to the Asian camp, rather than North America, in any future trade war.

His spokesman, Sadaaki Numata, underscored the point by stressing the shared "values and systems" of Japanese, Australian and New Zealand societies.

The three countries were, Numata said, the industrialized democracies of Asia and by coming here Miyazawa was "completing the circle" in his self-appointed role of Asia-Pacific regional spokesman at the Group of Seven (G7) July summit in Tokyo.

But behind the visit was the fear that the Uruguay Round of world trade talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which have lasted seven years without agreement, might shortly collapse—leaving the world with a war between trading blocs.

Japanese and New Zealand officials said the belief that Australia and New Zealand would seek entry into the North American Free Trade Area (NAFTA) led to Miyazawa's trip here.

Miyazawa flew in Saturday afternoon from Australia and was given a standard welcome ceremony with a naval guard of honour. He later visited Auckland's One Tree Hill to take in the view just before hour-long talks with Bolger.

The talks were followed by an official dinner and a speech in which Miyazawa noted that the competitiveness of New Zealand's products "makes New Zealand one of the few countries which enjoy a trade surplus with Japan."

In 1991, New Zealand exports to Japan were worth 2.6 billion New Zealand dollars (1.4 billion U.S.), while imports from Japan were valued at 2.1 billion dollars (1.1 billion U.S.).

Miyazawa's trip here was received with some curiosity since it marked the first time Wellington's opinions were sought ahead of a G7 summit.

Japan seems to have appointed itself the spokesman for Asia at the upcoming G7 summit, observers said.

Traditionally London or Washington have been regarded as representatives of New Zealand's interests at G7 meetings, which bring together leaders from Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States.

However, Bolger at a press conference warmly welcomed Miyazawa's initiative.

"I don't, in any way, underestimate the significance of Japan as the Asian member of the G7 saying 'Look, I want to understand the views of those in our region' and to come and talk to the Australian and New Zealand prime ministers," Bolger said.

Bolger said the importance of Asia to New Zealand could not be overstated, adding that he would later this month visit Japan, South Korea and China.

With no other G7 leader bothering to ask New Zealand its views, prior to or even after a summit, Miyazawa has scored big political points here, observers said.

Numata conceded that the prospect of NAFTA's expansion and influence in the region bothered Japan, saying that Tokyo did not want Canberra and Wellington in the group and emphasised that Japan shared New Zealand's concerns and hopes for truly global free trade.

Numata said that economic growth in the Asia-Pacific region was the bright spot on the world economy and consequently Japan believed it carried political weight in G7 consultations.

Miyazawa, he said, believes the Asia Pacific Economic Council (APEC) organisation could become a strong vehicle to represent not only the region's trade issues, but also its political and strategic aspirations.

Premier Opposes Resumption of French Nuclear Tests

BK0105080293 Hong Kong AFP in English 0655 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] Auckland, May 1 (AFP)—New Zealand Prime Minister Jim Bolger said Saturday he would be "very disappointed" if France resumed nuclear testing in the South Pacific.

He was commenting on a statement by the head of France's Atomic Energy Commission Philippe Rouvillois urging the French Government to end its year-long moratorium on nuclear weapons testing.

Bolger said in a speech at a conference of the Auckland division of the ruling National Party there was "absolutely no need" for the tests at this time of international disarmament.

Earlier Saturday Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Don McKinnon said New Zealand had no indication France was thinking of resuming nuclear tests, despite comments from Rouvillois, who told the French National Assembly's defence committee this week nuclear tests were "indispensable for confirming our ideas and calculations."

McKinnon, speaking in an interview with the New Zealand Press Association, said: "We always expected to hear this information from that particular individual.

"This particular agency of the French Government has always been supportive of continued testing."

McKinnon said New Zealand was "delighted" that French President Francois Mitterrand did not want to see testing start again.

"We hope it stays that way. We have seen no evidence that tests are about to be resumed.

"But coming from the head of the agency that is responsible for the whole exercise, one can understand his point of view, even though we totally disagree."

The agency's view had always been "somewhat provocative," McKinnon said.

New Zealand had not yet contacted the French Government "but we will certainly be making our views known," he said.

France 'Cannot Justify' Resumption

BK0305084493 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0800 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] New Zealand's Prime Minister Jim Bolger has warned France that it cannot justify resuming nuclear tests in the Pacific. Addressing a news conference in Wellington, Mr. Bolger said there was no justification for restarting nuclear testing at a time when the world's nuclear powers were decreasing their weapon stockpiles.

Mr. Bolger's comments follow a statement at the weekend by the head of the French Atomic Energy Commission, Philippe Rouvillois, who urged the French Government to review nuclear testing on Mururoa Atoll in French Polynesia. Mr. Rouvillois said that the resumption of the tests were necessary for confirming ideas and calculations in the nuclear field.

France along with Russia and the United States have been observing a moratorium on nuclear testing since April 1992.